

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. XLIII.]

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, 29TH APRIL, 1896.

No. 18.

CONTENTS.

Epitome of the Week, &c.	353
Leading Articles:—	
The British Minister and British Policy	354
The Democratisation of Diplomacy	354
The Chinese Customs Revenue	355
The Military Contribution	355
France and Madagascar	356
Foreign Trade in Formosa	356
The Chamber of Commerce and its Foreign Members	356
Reviews	356
Supreme Court	358
The Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce	359
Hongkong Sanitary Board	359
Sir W. Robinson's Lecture on Irish Wit and Humour	360
The Stranding of the <i>Eze</i>	361
Flagrant Case of Incendiarism in Hongkong	362
Victoria English Schools	362
Victoria Recreation Club	363
The Rifle Brigade Regimental Plate	364
The Polo Tournament	364
"Off Side" and "Fouls" at Polo	364
Duties of Players at Polo	365
Lawn Tennis Tournament	365
Hongkong Volunteer Corps Field Battery	365
Rifle Matches	365
Royal Hongkong Yacht Club	366
The Punjom Mining Co., Limited	366
Raub	366
The Yangtze Insurance Co., Limited	367
Correspondence	367
Tientsin	368
Hongkong and Port News	368
Commercial	369
Shipping	372

DEATHS.

- At Sandakan, on the 21st April, 1896, GEORGE L. SHUSTER, aged 22 years, second son of the late J. F. Shuster, of Hongkong. [1016]
- At his residence, the German Tavern, Queen's Road Central, at 11 p.m., 24th April, 1896, C. F. W. PETERSON, aged 64 years. (German papers please copy.) [1032]
- On Saturday, 18th April, in Hankow, DAVID HILL, aged 55 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The American mail of the 30th March arrived, per P. M. steamer *Peru*, on the 25th April (26 days); and the French mail of the 27th March arrived, per M. M. steamer *Natal*, on the 26th April (30 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A thousand Chinese coolies are being sent from Cochin-China, under voluntary contract, to Madagascar.

Mr. F. B. Aglen has been appointed to succeed Mr. Detring as Commissioner of Customs at Tientsin.

The annual inspection of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps was made by Major Bottfield on the 18th April.

A factory for the manufacture of the newest kinds of rifles and cannons will be amalgamated with the Hanyang Iron Works, by order of H.E. Chang Chih-tung.—*Mercury*.

The Armstrong-built Chinese cruiser *Nan-shing*, which has been ashore above Wuhu since October last, was got off on the 11th April.

The *N. C. Daily News* is informed that the Japanese Government has advised its national to stop all industrial operations in China for the present.

Herr von Brandt, ex-German Minister to China, accompanied by Mrs. von Brandt and Baron von der Goltz, arrived at Shanghai on the 19th April from Tientsin.

The Spanish steamer *Manila*, which arrived at Singapore on the 19th April from Liverpool, had on board 500 tons of railway materials for Labuan, where she was to call in and discharge on her way to Manila.

Famine prevails in Tonkin owing to the prolonged drought and consequent failure of the rice crop. A public subscription has been opened for the relief of the sufferers, which was headed by the Governor-General with a contribution of \$500.

The *China Gazette* says:—The French cruiser *Forfait*, which left Shanghai last week for home, is to be relieved by the very formidable new cruiser *Descartes*, which has just done remarkably successful trial trips. The other old-fashioned French warships on this station are to be similarly replaced by vessels of high speed, heavy armament, and modern construction.

The *Chuwo*, referring to the future of the match industry in Japan, says:—After supplanting Europe in the match trade in the East, it is feared that the industry in Japan will soon decay, as the willow and white pine from which sticks are made are becoming scarce. None can be found in the forests in the vicinity of Kyoto, Osaka, and Shizuoka.

A Tokyo telegram of the 28th April to the *China Gazette* says:—It has been agreed by the Korean Government that it shall pay 5,000 yen compensation for each Japanese murdered by Koreans during the past couple of months, and that the sum of 120,000 yen shall be paid as compensation to the Japanese merchants and traders who had to leave Pingyang on account of the failure of the Korean officials to afford them protection against the mob.

At Shanghai on the 22nd April, we learn from the *Mercury*, half of a Founders' Langkat Tobacco Co.'s share was sold for Tls. 5,000. This is unparalleled in the history of brokerage in Shanghai. The Founders' shares are valued (par) at Tls. 100 each. According to the *China Gazette* a telegram from Mr. Geo. McBain states that the long expected concession by the Dutch Government to work the oil and timber on Lankat estate has been signed.

The *Japan Herald* reports that the village of Miyamura, popularly known as Tokerita, in Miyagi Prefecture, famous for its hot springs, was almost entirely destroyed by fire on the 6th April. The place consists of only fifty-three buildings, of which, however, several were of considerable extent, and of these only seven escaped destruction. There were at the time some 500 invalid soldiers staying at the place, for the benefit of their health, but all these escaped without injury.

The annual meeting of the Yangtze Insurance Association, Limited, was held at Shanghai on the 20th April, when the report and accounts were adopted and passed, and, in view of the favourable results, it was resolved that a bonus of twenty per cent. on their salaries be paid to the Company's employees of over three years' service and a bonus of ten per cent. to employees of shorter service.

From Nanking we (*N. C. Daily News*) learn that the new railway which will start from that city will commence from the Tungchi gate and connect with the city of Chüyung to the north-east of the former city and then eastwards to Chinkiang. Another line westward starting from the same gate will be built to connect with the city of Wuhu, belonging to the neighbouring province of Anhui. It is expected that these two lines will be finished by the spring of 1897, but trains will begin to run before that, going as far as practicable in order to accustom the people to this innovation.

We translate the following from the *Courrier d'Haiphong*:—We learn with much satisfaction that a briquette factory is shortly to be established at Hongay. In view of the magnificent coal seams at Haton we have never for a single moment doubted the future of the Société Française des Charbonnages du Tonkin, but it is none the less true that this great enterprise has had to pass through days of difficulty. Has Deception Point at last been doubled? Everything tends to that belief, for it was the dust coal in particular that was uncertain of a market. With the briquette factory there will be no more fear on this head and the development of the mines will henceforth proceed regularly and progressively. Tonkin cannot but gain thereby. The firm of Porchet and Co. will probably be entrusted with the setting up of the factory and almost all the material will come from France. At the same time Messrs. Porchet & Co. are to build a comfortable house for the management on the site of M. Bavier-Chauffour's well-known mat-shed.

The increase in prices which has for some time past been going on in Japan seems to be extending to China. At the annual meeting of the Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Limited, the Chairman in the course of his speech said:—During the past year the business has, you will see, very largely increased in bulk, unfortunately not with proportionately good results, but there are one or two reasons for that, which I will explain. One is that the price of fodder has gone up very much during the past year. The average price of fodder during 1894 was for bran 98 cents a picul and for barley 99 cents a picul, while in 1895 the average price of bran has been \$1.35 per picul and barley \$1.44. This increase means a very large difference in the outgoings of the Company, and we have not yet made any change in the charge for hire and livery, but with the increased demand that arises in Shanghai for fodder and the advance there has been in mafoos' wages, the directors feel that the time has come when we must make some extra charge. There is very little profit to the Company in livery ponies at Tls. 12; therefore a very small increase in livery and hire would make a more wholesome return to the Company, and the directors think the time has arrived when they must do it.

THE BRITISH MINISTER AND BRITISH POLICY.

SIR CLAUDE MACDONALD has reached Peking and is now gathering up the reins of his important office. Both Shanghai and Tientsin have followed the example of Hongkong in addressing His Excellency *en passant* as to the most urgent needs of the foreign communities, and, as might have been expected, their requests have taken much the same form as our own—extension of territory, transit pass questions, and commercial facilities in general. As Sir CLAUDE's predecessor said, there is no reason why these questions should not become practical in the immediate future, for the Chinese have already yielded up the principle involved in each. To secure them is largely a matter of diplomatic *finesse* and concerns the tact and personal qualifications of the Minister rather than high policy. Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD will find the celestial capital a curious contrast to the scenes of his previous efforts in diplomacy and administration. His lot is now cast in an environment of petty intrigue and ignoble chicanery, where shifty procrastination is mistaken for statecraft and cunning is confounded with policy. Even in ordinary times Foreign Ministers have great difficulties in carrying out the daily routine of their work in Peking. But just now these difficulties are raised to the nth degree by the general political outlook and by the very peculiar local situation. France is represented by an Anglophobe who not only thinks it his duty to oppose us, but who also, by the exigencies of the dual alliance, can carry with him the one strong man of the situation, Count CASSINI. The extreme tension in the recent colonial relations of England and Germany will naturally be reflected everywhere, even in Far Cathay, and we fear that Sir CLAUDE will not find Baron VON SCHWEINBERG an enthusiastic colleague in the removal of grievances. In Colonel DENBY alone may our Minister look for that cheerful support which attends unity of interests and sympathy of feeling. The incontrovertible fact that the extension of British privileges is and always will be the extension of the privileges of all makes no difference in the attitude of our rivals; the present trend of general Western policy towards China is to secure exclusive privileges and it is by no means certain that the ingenuity of diplomatists will not find a way through the large mesh of the "favoured nation clause" of the existing treaties.

The new Minister has come to China full of zeal and while the fine flush of youth is still with him. As a diplomat he is still in the sap stage and his vitality does not run to pith. We are glad of it, as we have a general belief in young men. Age has never had the monopoly of wisdom. A young man is less likely to stagnate in Peking than one of riper years. We hope Sir CLAUDE will make it a *sine qua non* of his official conduct to quit the close and enervating atmosphere of the capital once a year, and make a round of the outposts. Personal touch with his fellow countrymen, especially with his unofficial fellow countrymen, will do him endless good and will be like the inhalation of ozone into a jaded system. All his predecessors have done themselves and the interests committed to their charge great harm by their seclusion in the Imperial city, and as a mere matter of personal hygiene he should make it an imperative duty to leave it for a month or two every year. It is all very well to talk as the late Minister did of the exigencies of

duty and excess of work; we believe that both of these claims would be better met by leaving Peking for a time. Despatches from home can be intercepted, and the very able and experienced staff at the legation can be confidently trusted to see to the daily routine in connection with the Tsungli Yamen. This suggests another phase of Sir CLAUDE's duties: how to deal with this invertebrate body. He will of course find their very peculiar methods heartbreaking and totally destructive of all the ideals he has formed on the diplomatic art. His Excellency should if possible start with no delusions on the subject of this august imbecility, which lives but to defeat the ostensible object of its creation, i.e., to hinder instead of to further the relations between China and the powers. To fight it or to reason with it is, according to Sir HARRY PARKES, like attacking a bolster or convincing a row of books, and the mere daily intercourse with it is terribly apt to degenerate into a question of bodily strength and staying power. The weapons of Chinese diplomacy, notwithstanding a lot of rubbish written to the contrary, are passivity, patience, *laissez-faire*, and a Micawber-like proclivity to await what will turn up; and against a man unused to dealing with them they are very powerful weapons indeed: in conflict we could vanquish them, without conflict they vanquish us. Two decades ago English statesmen knew the one efficient means of combating and circumventing Chinese statecraft, just as Russian statesmen know it now, viz., by fixity of policy and a constant display of material force in the safe background.

There really are but two efficient methods of dealing with a Government such as that of China now is—and, happily or unhappily, the recent state of public opinion in England has justified neither—military force and the power of the secret service fund. Both of these are probably available to the distinguished Russian who now moves the puppets in the Imperial city; without them our Minister's only weapons consist in tact and personal adroitness. These if dovetailed into opportunity may do something, but not much. With Mr. CURZON as Lord SALISBURY's henchman at the Foreign Office it may be possible to stiffen British policy in China, especially as the nation is now keen on foreign affairs and as the equipoise of party strife at home is destroyed. If Downing Street could but be persuaded to tolerate more collusion between the Admiral and the Minister things would soon take a turn for the better. Our diplomatic system of late years has been wrong and now that the brilliant success of another policy differing *in toto* from ours has been exemplified by Count CASSINI we trust there will be a change in its direction, all the more so as it means a reversion to a policy eminently successful in our own past. Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD's arrival in Peking is a happy opportunity of renewing it and of abolishing that shilly-shally which has for so long impaired our self-respect and our material interests, to say nothing of minifying the progress and weal of the Chinese.

At Shanghai on the 21st April, we learn from the *Mercury*, a coolie employed at the New Electric Light Station was killed by an electric shock. It appears he went into the engine house, where he had no business, and placed his hand on one of the terminals, which resulted in instant death, his fingers being burnt off to the first joint and the palm of the hand badly scorched.

THE DEMOCRATISATION OF DIPLOMACY.

One of the most sacred traditions of the diplomatic service is the observance of strict secrecy in relation to pending negotiations upon international questions. Like many other time worn traditions, however, it seems not improbable that this may have to go by the board. In connection with the Transvaal difficulty Mr. CHAMBERLAIN frankly took the nation into his confidence and never was a Minister more firmly supported at home or more respected abroad. There may at times be special reasons for secrecy, but speaking generally we believe nearly all England's diplomatic blunders would have been avoided had a little wholesome light been let in upon the negotiations that led up to them. In our own local field we may find one or two instances in support of this belief. When Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK negotiated a convention with China the Government of the day took the opinion of the various Chambers of Commerce in China and throughout the United Kingdom upon it, with the result that the treaty was not ratified. Had ratification taken place foreign trade would have been greatly prejudiced. It is true there is at the present time a disposition to revert to the principles Sir RUTHERFORD ALCOCK worked upon, especially with regard to increasing the import duty in return for the total abolition of *likin* and all other inland charges, but a good deal has happened during the interval and it would now be more feasible to compel China's observance of her part of the bargain than it would have been at that time. It is doubtful whether such an arrangement might not be premature even now; it would certainly have been premature in 1869. The question, however, was referred to the Chambers of Commerce, and the danger was avoided. Had the Chefoo Convention been referred in a similar way it would no doubt have been greatly improved, for as it stands it is an exceedingly unbusiness like instrument and one that could not have stood detailed criticism and remained unaltered. When the last treaty with Japan was published British residents in that country felt very much aggrieved that they had not been consulted, and with some reason, for their interests were vitally affected. The Japanese Government was specially solicitous for the observance of secrecy in that instance, on account of the excited state of feeling in Japan upon the subject of treaty revision, and the British Government met its wishes in the matter. But if it be admitted for the sake of argument that the reasons for secrecy were good, so far as regards the political part of the treaty, there was certainly no reason why the Chambers of Commerce should not have been consulted upon the tariff. Had that been done we would not have seen the extraordinary solicitude of the British negotiator on the subject of hats, and his indifference to the vastly more important article of sugar. At the banquet given to Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD at Shanghai the other day Mr. R. M. CAMPBELL, the Chairman of the Shanghai Branch of the China Association, in proposing the health of the new Minister expressed the hope that he would take the Association into his confidence instead of merely promising "favourable consideration" for the matters urged upon him. Sir CLAUDE MACDONALD will do well to act upon the suggestion, for that way safety lies, both as regards the interests of the country he represents and his own official reputation. As Mr. CAMPBELL said, the glorious

heritage of our forefathers, which the Minister in his speech at Hongkong said should be upheld, has not been upheld, but that is not the blame of the community of Hongkong or the various British communities that are dispersed through China, and, in polite language, Mr. CAMPBELL further enunciated the view that British diplomacy in China for the last generation has been a failure and that whatever commercial success had been attained has been by the efforts of British merchants themselves. We hope a new era is dawning and that in the future our diplomacy will assist commerce by clearing all removable obstacles out of the way. To effect that, however, there must be a mutual confidence and understanding between the Minister and his nationals.

THE CHINESE CUSTOMS REVENUE.

A suggestive article (communicated) on the Chinese Customs revenue appeared in the *China Mail* on Thursday evening. When we say suggestive we do not mean instructive, for the article is in many respects misleading and displays in parts a want of acquaintance with facts. We are told, for instance, that "Prices in silver taels mean nowadays only half as much in gold dollars or sovereigns as they did ten years ago, while they mean still what they used to mean in francs, roubles, marks, and yen. Conversely, prices of goods bought abroad are twice as high as they used to be for British and American goods, but just as cheap to the Chinese purchaser as they used to be in French, German, Belgian, Russian, and Japanese markets." Everyone ought to know that francs and marks have altered in their tael value in precisely the same proportion as sovereigns, and roubles in nearly the same proportion. The writer in our contemporary, being in ignorance of this fundamental fact, cannot be taken as a safe guide in matters of international trade.

The suggestiveness of the article lies in its opening paragraphs, in which attention is drawn to what is justly termed an exceedingly curious and interesting fact, namely, "that while the annual value of the trade of China under the Customs has steadily increased since 1888, the revenue collected thereon is actually less. The figures are:—Value of trade, 1889, 207 million taels; 1890, 214 mil.; '91, 234 mil.; '92, 237 mil.; '93, 267 mil.; '94, 290 mil.; '95, 314 million taels, or over 50 per cent. increase. Customs Revenue, 1889, 21 million taels; '90, 21; '91, 23; '92, 22; '93, 21; '94, 22; '95, 21. The full figures are, for 1889, the year when the ports of Lungchow and Mengtse were opened, 21,823,762 taels, and for 1895, 21,385,389. When these figures are reduced to gold currency, at the respective rates of each year, they amount to an approximate equality in the trade and a decline of about fifty per cent. in the Customs Revenue, that is to say, in the value of the security on which China borrows. How it comes about would take a great deal of tedious explanation, but there is no deception in the evidence that Chinese Government Bondholders have some reason to feel dissatisfied." Instead of giving the explanation, which need not be at all tedious, the writer launches off into a tirade against Chinese corruption and stagnation, which, as we all know, are as bad as bad can be, but they have nothing whatever to do with the phenomenon presented by the want of agreement between the Customs revenue and the value of trade, the

service presided over by Sir ROBERT HART being happily elevated above all the corrupting influences which pervade the purely native fiscal system. Even the efforts made by the native Customs at Canton to divert trade from foreign steamers to junks has only an infinitesimal effect upon the total, and as such diversion can only be brought about by offering lower duties there are some who think the system not an undiluted evil for foreign trade. We do not agree with that view, but the issue is a side one, upon which we do not propose to enter now.

The question is why the revenue of the Foreign Customs has not expanded *pari passu* with the increase in the value of the trade. The explanation, a very simple one, is to be found in the fact that while prices of commodities have undergone a material alteration the rate of duty has remained a fixture. The duty is levied on the quantity, not on the value. A smaller quantity of goods imported or exported to-day may represent a larger silver value than a greater quantity six years ago, but the duty collected will follow the quantity and consequently be smaller. The net foreign imports in 1889 amounted to Tls. 110,884,355 and in 1895 to Tls. 171,696,715, showing an increase of nearly fifty-five per cent., whereas the import duty has increased only from Tls. 5,868,263 to \$6,039,582, or less than three per cent. The most important single article contributing to the import revenue is opium, and on turning to the figures for that article we find that while in 1889 the value of the quantity imported was Tls. 30,444,869, in 1895 it was Tls. 29,164,800, or a decrease of a little over four per cent., while the import duty (exclusive of lekin) paid upon it would amount at the tariff rate to Tls. 2,281,320 in 1889 and to Tls. 1,539,180 only in 1895, showing a falling off of thirty-two per cent. The duty collected has diminished in proportion to the diminution in the quantity imported, but the total value has been kept up to nearly its old level by an increase in prices. Other articles exhibit similar results. Mr. KORSCH, the Statistical Secretary, in his report, works out the imports of seven standard lines of cotton goods for the last two decades. In 1886-90 the number of pieces imported was 66,613,000, whereas in 1891-95 it was 60,884,000 pieces. The duty necessarily declined in proportion to the quantity, but the value was kept up by a rise in prices of some 27 per cent. since 1886. This explains why it is that the increase in the import revenue has not kept pace with the increase in value of the import trade.

A similar explanation applies to exports. It is generally supposed that low exchange stimulates the export trade, but in China the two articles of tea and silk represent from twenty-five to thirty per cent. of the total exports, and these articles have not been sent abroad in largely increased quantities under the influence of cheap silver. The value of black and green tea exported in 1889 was Tls. 25,832,961, and in 1895 Tls. 28,002,237, or an increase of eight per cent., but this increase in value took place in spite of a diminution in quantity, and the duty declined from, say, Tls. 3,872,000 to Tls. 3,420,000, showing a falling off of thirteen per cent. [These figures are not given in the Customs returns, but have been worked out from the tariff according to the quantities given in the returns; they must consequently be taken as approximate only.] Brick tea shows an increase in value of eighty-three per cent., but the increased duty amounts only to fifty per cent.; this article standing

alone is a comparatively small item and the increase shown in the duty paid on it is a long way from making up for the decrease in that paid on black and green tea. The export of silk (all descriptions) increased in value from Tls. 31,958,230 in 1889 to Tls. 34,696,172 in 1895, or eight and a half per cent., while the duty increased only from, say, Tls. 926,500 to Tls. 960,500, or 3.6 per cent. Raw cotton, again, the export of which has been growing rapidly, shows an increase in value from Tls. 5,044,806 in 1889 to Tls. 11,202,661 in 1895, or 122 per cent., but the increase in value exceeds that in quantity and the duty consequently shows an increase of 77 per cent. only. So we find it all through the list, values progressing more rapidly than quantities and the duty—being reckoned not on the values but on the quantities—lagging behind in sympathy with the latter. We find, therefore, that while the total exports of China to foreign countries have increased from Tls. 96,947,832 in 1889 to Tls. 143,293,211 in 1895, or 47 per cent., the export duty has increased only from Tls. 8,214,808 to Tls. 9,025,557, or rather less than 10 per cent. When we come to coast trade duty, where the question of exchange has no influence, we find an increase from Tls. 912,881 to Tls. 1,216,361, or 33 per cent., and tonnage dues show a still larger increase, but the net result is that the total collection shows a decrease of rather less than half a million taels, but as the opium likin shows a decrease of over two millions, in addition to the falling off in the import duty already noted, there is, excluding this article, an actual increase, though a small one.

A study of the Customs returns shows the non-expansiveness of the foreign trade of China; but what the suggestion thrown out by the writer in the *China Mail* leads up to is the probability of a revision of the tariff, though that does not seem to have occurred to him, nor will it be welcome to the foreign merchant. The tariff was arranged in 1858 on a basis, generally speaking, of five per cent. *ad valorem*. Owing to the change which has taken place in prices the duties then fixed no longer represent that percentage. Either China or England may apply for a revision of the tariff at the end of every ten years, and it is possible China will make such a demand in 1898. If she hesitates to do so it will only be because she fears that it might lead to counter claims by England with respect to the "squeezing" system, which is such a hindrance to trade of every description. But it is not squeezes, but chiefly the changes in silver values, that account for the "exceedingly curious and interesting" fact that while the annual value of the trade of China under the Customs has steadily increased since 1888 the revenue collected thereon is actually less."

THE MILITARY CONTRIBUTION.

The Military Contribution Bill which this colony will shortly be called upon to pass will no doubt follow the same lines as that read a second time in the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements on the 16th April and which has by this time no doubt been duly passed. We have not yet received the Singapore papers containing the debate upon the second reading, but a short paragraph appears in the *Singapore Free Press* of the 16th stating that the Bill passed its second reading without a division and that only one of the unofficial members spoke upon it. From this it must be inferred that the principle of the measure was not seriously

objected to, which is singular, in view of the strenuous opposition Singapore has offered in the past to the military contribution root and branch. After a long and acrimonious discussion an agreement was arrived at by which the colony was to pay 17½ per cent. of its revenue, instead of a fixed sum in sterling, and with that our Singapore friends professed themselves fairly well satisfied; but a new and important question is raised by the Bill now brought forward, and one on which we should have expected the un-officials would have had a good deal to say. That question is, whether the 17½ per cent. is to be regarded as a payment in full discharge of all Imperial obligations or whether it is to be appropriated to one specific purpose and the door to be left open to pecuniary demands for other specific purposes. As originally drafted the Bill provided that the 17½ per cent. should be deemed to be a fixed contribution payable by the colony "in full return for its defence," but as amended by the Secretary of State it reads "in full return for the annual cost of the Imperial garrison." As remarked by the *Straits Times*, it is to be observed that Sir CHARLES MITCHELL'S Bill would have made it inconvenient for the Home Government to ask the colony to contribute any further sums, as, for instance, in aid of the naval votes, whereas the Secretary of State's Bill obviously leaves it open for the Home Government to say, "Yes, you are paying in aid of the Imperial garrison and now we want you to pay something in aid of the Imperial Navy." If it be urged that a demand for a Naval contribution is an improbability, the reply is that the alteration made by the Secretary of State must have some purpose and signification and it can only be interpreted as a saver of the assumed rights of the Imperial Government to make further demands. In Hongkong the understanding was most definite that the 17½ per cent. should be regarded as payment in full and if the Bill when it is introduced does not give effect to that understanding it will be the duty of the unofficial members to oppose it on principle even though they do so with the consciousness that they have no chance of success. At Singapore the *Straits Times* deprecated opposition, the *Free Press* preserved silence, and the unofficial members appear to have thought they had had enough of the military contribution question. The *Straits Times* thinks it "doubtful whether the colony cares twopence about the matter." The colony is chiefly indifferent on the subject. It is rather sick of military contribution discussions, and is probably content to let the matter pass; and this appears to be the only explanation of the acquiescence of the unofficial members. Our contemporary goes on to say:—"The colony, as we must sometimes take leave to remind the inhabitants thereof, is only a possession of the Crown to be governed by the Imperial Ministry of the day. As a Crown colony, it has no power to make a bargain with the Imperial Government, no power to refuse to make a bargain, and no power to keep or to break an alleged bargain. The colony, in a word, has no self-governing powers, and the Bill under discussion is nothing but a way of appearing to close a family dispute, as between a tolerant parent and a child who is a minor." But even children have legal rights, and under our modern system of ethics they are accorded rights largely in excess of those recognised by law. If a Crown colony is to be regarded as a child it is none the less entitled to be treated fairly and equitably. We admit our

obligation to share in the burden of Imperial defence, but an agreement having been arrived at as to what our share should be we cannot admit the right of the Imperial Government to twist the words of that agreement in any way calculated to give it a different meaning from that originally intended.

FRANCE AND MADAGASCAR.

The decision of the French Government not to accord to British trade with Madagascar the same privileges as to French trade affords a cogent reason why Great Britain cannot regard French colonial expansion with a friendly eye. There is nothing new in the incident, which is in entire accord with the policy pursued by France for many years past in regard to all her colonies, but it supplies a concrete example which ought to attract attention to the subject. In seeking to bring foreign territory under her domination France is influenced as much, perhaps more, by the desire to injure the trade of other powers, and of Great Britain in particular, as by a desire to promote her own commerce. That desire has influenced her in her encroachments upon Siam, and, equally, should she ever obtain possession of the western provinces of China, which she is credited with the ambition of owning, she would immediately proceed to build up a wall of hostile tariffs against all but French trade, provided she were allowed to do so. It is therefore a matter of self-preservation with England to forestall her whenever possible. France, on the other hand, has no reason to object to British colonial expansion, for under the British flag the Frenchman like all other foreigners possesses equal trading privileges with British subjects. Yet the hostility of France to British colonial expansion is much stronger than British hostility to French colonial expansion.

FOREIGN TRADE IN FORMOSA.

Apprehension appears to be entertained in some quarters that Japan will endeavour to appropriate to herself all the benefits to be derived from the opening up of Formosa in the same way that France is seeking to appropriate to herself exclusive advantages in Madagascar. The recently published regulations for the control of the sugar and camphor industries are regarded as affording evidence in support of that view. These regulations, however, apply as fully to Japanese subjects as to foreigners, or would so apply if there were any Japanese engaged in the trades in question, which does not yet appear to be the case. Whether the issue of such regulations is a wise measure or not may be a matter of opinion, but it cannot be regarded as an anti-foreign measure. Formosa has now become a part of Japan and the rights of British subjects there are well safeguarded by the treaty of 1894, in which it is provided that there shall be reciprocal freedom of commerce and navigation between the dominions and possessions of the two high contracting parties, and that the subjects of each shall enjoy respectively in the territories of the other the same treatment in matters of commerce and navigation as native subjects; and no taxes, imposts, or duties, of whatever nature or under whatever denomination levied in the name or for the profit of the Government, public functionaries, private individuals, corporations, or establishments of any kind, shall be paid by them other or greater than those paid by

native subjects. Nothing could possibly be clearer, and British merchants in Formosa may rest satisfied that, however irksome they may find the regulations imposed, they will not in that respect be placed at any disadvantage *vis-a-vis* Japanese subjects. The concession of equal trading privileges accorded by Japan may have been made more as a matter of prudence than from any conviction of the inherent wisdom of such a policy; she was negotiating a treaty by which Great Britain surrendered her extra-territorial rights and under the circumstances Japan could not adopt an exclusive policy even if she had so wished; but whatever her feelings in the matter may have been the words of the treaty are plain and unequivocal. The treaty was concluded before the acquisition of Formosa, but it necessarily applies to the latter, now that it has become Japanese territory, as fully as it applies to Japan proper.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND FOREIGN MEMBERS.

The *Hongkong Telegraph* says:—"Our morning contemporary not very long ago openly advocated the formation in Hongkong of a purely British Chamber of Commerce." Our contemporary's recollection is at fault. No change in the present constitution of the Chamber has been advocated in these columns, nor do we think that it would be in any sense desirable to ask the members of foreign nationality to retire. We have contended that the Chamber, being a semi-representative institution in a British colony, should address itself to the British Minister, not to a foreign Minister, when it has representations to make to Peking, but that is a very different thing from advocating that foreigners should be excluded from membership of the Chamber. When the Chamber has addressed Ministers other than the British Minister it has been at the suggestion of British not of foreign members. We admit that the temptation to pass by the British Minister was at the time extreme, but we consider it was a mistake to yield to it. Even when our Ministers are weak it would be better for Britishers to do what they can to support them than directly or indirectly to assist in the lowering of British prestige. Returning to the constitution of the Chamber of Commerce, however: if it were made an exclusively British body the probable effect would be that the Germans would form a Chamber of Commerce of their own, and in any case the general interests of trade would not be so well served as with the whole body of merchants working in harmonious co-operation, as under the present system.

REVIEWS.

Sport in India and Somali Land, with Hints to Young Shikaries. By Surgeon-Captain EDYE, Army Medical Staff. London: Gale and Polden, Limited.

A PERUSAL of the latter portion of Surgeon-Captain Edye's book, containing an account of some of his hunting adventures, will make the sporting reader desire to follow in his footsteps, and, should he be able to gratify his desire, he will find in the earlier chapters useful information as to how to make his trip a success and how to deal with any accidents that may befall himself or his companions. The headings of the chapters will show the scope of this part of the book:—"Outfit, and where to get it;" "Medicines, and how and when to use them;" "Useful tips, and where to go;" "Skinning and the preservation of specimens;" "How to get to Somali Land, what to take and how to manage when there." So far the book is all business, to be carefully studied by those who stand in need of the information so

concisely supplied. Then we come to "Odd yarns on Indian sport" and "Odd yarns on Somali Land sport," which afford rather exciting reading. Some of the stories, Surgeon-Captain Edey says, read now even to him a trifle "tall," but there is not one exaggerated. His experience with his first tiger was rather peculiar:—

"The beaters came on, and were not more than fifty yards to my rear. I thought the beat over and descended the bank to the nullah, standing by the grassy gutter, awaiting the beaters and Shikari to come and arrange the next beat, when I heard the latter from his elevated position call out in Hindi, 'Tell the Sahib to look out, there is a tiger in the grass.' I nipped up that bank in double quick time and got behind a big tree. I was not a moment too soon, for the next instant I saw the head and shoulders of a huge tiger push the grass of the gutter aside, and there he stood, languidly turning to look up and down the nullah. I hit him through the fleshy part of the forearm, high up; and from being a heavy, sleepy-looking great brute, he became a fiend incarnate. With one bound he cleared the whole nullah and landed on the opposite sloping bank. There, standing up on his hind legs, he roared, and swayed to and fro six or eight times, tearing off leaves and branches and tossing them about. I cannot tell you why I did not fire again; I was not a bit frightened. The whole scene, I fancy, appalled and mesmerised me, and had he seen and charged me I don't believe I should have moved. It was practically the first tiger I had seen, and there I was, not ten yards off, and only behind a tree, and the most perfect fury and uproar going on in front of me. He dropped into the nullah, gave a couple of bounds down it, and then got up the side he had just attempted, at a less precipitous place, and rushed for the line of beaters, every one of whom was now up a tree. They afterwards told me that he lay down with his head between his paws, roaring. I could not see him then on account of the bushes. He then sprang to his feet, and I got a glimpse of him for the hundredth part of a second as he galloped off roaring. One by one my coolies descended, but I only saw eleven again, the others having bolted. The next beat failed to find him."

Another tiger adventure is as follows:—

"I heard the beaters shouting nearly a mile off. I was sitting on the ground, close up to a heap of wild vine, when I heard crunch, crunch, in the dead leaves and just had time, while raising the rifle, to think 'Well, it's more than one animal' and 'it's not like sambhur coming along,' when through the vine I saw standing a huge tiger, not four feet from me. I could have shoved the muzzle of the rifle right against his side, and pulled both triggers. I nearly did so, when he stalked sleepily along. I shrunk up to the vine, making myself as small as I could, passed the sights of the rifle to behind the ear, waited till he had gone about three paces farther on and was descending slightly, when my eye caught sight of No. 2 abreast of No. 1, and about twenty yards off. Before I pressed the trigger they both simultaneously halted, and very dreamily and slowly turned their heads and gazed at me. The 'bead' was drawn between No. 1's eyes at about three yards from the muzzle, and at the moment I fired they both bounded like a flash down the incline. I heard a growl and jumped to my feet and was behind a bamboo clump in an instant, but as nothing showed up I slipped in another cartridge and waited. After a few minutes the Shikari and some coolies come up, and giving the former the 'Paradox' loaded we advanced to reconnoitre and saw a tiger lying on his side. As he did not move to stones shied at him we walked up, to find him dead; but my bullet never reached his head or even his neck, so rapid was his bound; it caught him behind his shoulder and wounded the heart. I at once beat for No. 2, but it was 4 p.m., and the coolies were very frightened and would not form a line, so I had to give it up. They were both full-grown tigers, and as it was December they were in their winter coats.

In Somali Land the author seems to have had an altogether "good time." After giving the ac-

count of his adventures in detail he sums up by saying:—

"It was an exciting Christmas, 1893. On the 24th of December I shot the two lionesses and lost the lion after wounding him; on Christmas Day we were after a lioness we lost, and that night sat out in zerebas and heard lions roaring in the distance frequently, and on the 26th we shot the lion, out of a troupe of three which jumped up from under a tree twenty yards from us; on the 28th we shot the broken tooth lioness in the 'English orchard.'"

There are twenty-three illustrations, reproduced from photos taken with a kodak by the author and his companion during their sporting tours. The book may be obtained from Messrs. Kelly & Walsh, Limited, or Messrs. Walter W. Brewer & Co.

With Boat and Gun in the Yangtze Valley.
Edited by H. T. WADE. Shanghai: Shanghai Mercury Office.

SPORTSMEN who have the opportunity of going over the country described in Mr. Wade's pages will have reason to thank that gentleman and his collaborators for the valuable information and useful hints afforded. The editor himself is responsible for the greater part of the book, but he has had able assistance on special topics. We may quote from the preface his acknowledgments:—

"In conclusion, I beg to offer my sympathy to the bereaved husband of the graceful scholar who compiled the Vocabulary, and to express my warmest thanks to my many contributors for the readiness with which they came forward with their support: Mr. and Mrs. Deighton-Braysher for their bright 'Trip to the Hills'; to Mrs. Maitland for her useful Cookery Notes; to the Right Rev. Bishop Moule and the Rev. Dr. Du Bose for their articles on the 'Cities under Heaven'; to Mr. Geo. Jamieson, H.B.M.'s Vice-Consul General, for his authoritative article as to 'What to do in Case of Trouble with the Natives,' as well as for many valuable suggestions; to Dr. Henderson for his Medical contribution; to Mr. A. E. Jones for his Yachting and Mr. Duncan Glass for his Wild-fowl Notes; to Messrs. Croal, Roberts, and Ashley for their expert papers on 'The House-Boat'; to Mr. Charles, H.B.M.'s Consul at Chinkiang, and Messrs. H. P. Wadman, E. A. Aldridge, A. L. Robertson, A. R. Greaves, H. R. Hearson, and O. G. Ready for their respective Notes; to Mr. Kum Ayen, who enjoys the unique position of being the first native of the Celestial Empire who has ever written in English an article on sport; to Mr. Geo. Burgoyne for his artistic Frontispiece; and to many other friends for welcome advice. I am under a great obligation to Mr. Styan for his valuable scientific papers; and to my friend, Mr. J. L. Brown, who cheerfully undertook the thankless task of reading the proofs and seeing these pages through the press."

No topic of interest to sportsmen in this special field appears to have been forgotten and "With Boat and Gun" will in future be an indispensable article in the equipment of shooting parties on the Yangtze. Chapter XXVI. contains *memorabilia* collected by the editor, in which a number of record bags are mentioned. The Ewo party in 1889, composed of Messrs. J. J. Bell-Irving, C. J. Ashley, Turner, J. F. Holliday, Douglas Jones, and Major Barker, in twenty-three shooting days, accounted for 2,049 head made up as follows:—1,801 pheasants, 90 teal, 42 ducks, 68 woodcocks, 29 hares, 11 deer, 5 geese, 1 partridge, 1 wild boar, and 1 wildcat. We extract the following note from the *memorabilia*:—

"In the winter of 1883 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Morris were up-country on pig intent. A fruitless week of really hard work (for on one occasion they did not return to the boat until 10 o'clock at night, in the hill country near Chinkiang) so disheartened them that they had given up in despair all hopes of even seeing a pig, and gave orders to the lowdah to move on. Early next morning the dog-boy awakened his master with the welcome cry of 'Yah-chu.' Here is Mr. Morris's graphic account of what then happened: 'I jumped up, and on looking out I saw five wild-boar close to the boat. I slipped on my boots, seized four cartridges and my Maynard, and bolted out. It was snowing

hard, but I did not think of that. I ran over the slippery plough-land, but could not get within shot, when to my delight they suddenly stopped and looked to right and left, and I rightly concluded that they had been checked by a creek. I ran in a parallel line and came to a cross creek. The porkers now turned towards me. Beyond a small bush about a couple of feet high there was no cover, but I made myself as small as possible behind it as the animals approached. I was so excited that I was literally running down with perspiration, and I thought they must have heard me blowing, as on they came in single file. I quite remember shutting my eyes for fear they should see me. They must have been about 30 yards off when I stood up and bang, bang, bang. Three pigs tumbled into the creek, one lay dying, and the fifth rushed past me. And there was I, two miles from the boat, with no cartridges. In about ten minutes I was surrounded by about a hundred natives; they seemed to come from everywhere. The fourth pig, after several attempts to scramble up the creek bank, at last succeeded, and ran off as if he had not been touched—I after him. How I crossed the creek I don't quite know. On coming to a lagoon the poor beast, frightened by the unearthly yelling, took to the water without hesitation, but he could not swim across it on account of the ice. There he was, a fine big boar, swimming round and round, unable to proceed. My fellows were so excited that although they knew I wanted a cartridge they did nothing but yell to each other to get some from the boat. At last, to my relief, I saw my house-boy coming across country with my Winchester, loaded (which he presented by the way straight at my middle), and with it I gave the poor pig a bullet in the head. But the nasty part was to come. The natives claimed the dead pig! and there were about 200 of them—natives not pig. Things were looking nasty, when an old man took me aside and offered for five dollars to take all the spoil to the boat. Of course I closed with the offer at once, and then sat down on the snow to cool. A welcome sight now caught my eye, my wife running to me from the boat with a parcel which I fondly imagined to be whisky, but which when unfolded turned out to be—what do you think? a pair of breeks!!! The natives stole one pig as it was being carried back to the boat. The other three I took down to Shanghai. Four pigs in five shots is a circumstance worth recording."

In the chapter by Mr. Kum Ayen on "Some Chinese methods of shooting and trapping game" a good deal of curious information is given in a very brief space.

"As regards the abundance of game," Mr. Wade says in his preface, "different views naturally obtain. Some aver that there is a growing scarceness; others, again, hold that, harassed by both foreign and native guns in the neighbourhood of the more frequented waterways, the pheasants have only betaken themselves to places where they are less disturbed. This theory is reasonable enough: take the Grand Canal from Wusieh to Tanyang as a case in point. In that district birds are usually fairly plentiful until the middle of November; after that it is somewhat difficult to find them, and it is not improbable that they have but taken the short flight necessary to reach the sanctuary offered by the limitless reed beds which fringe the Yangtze banks. Anyhow, they seem to get beyond the foreign sportsman's beat, though the native shooter is still able to supply the Shanghai market with larger quantities of game than ever, as is evidenced by the following figures. Mr. Geo. Cameron, the Municipal Inspector of Markets, ascertained for me in 1891 the number of pheasants sold between October and March. 'I find the figures alarming,' he writes, '25,000 brace, as shown by the dealers' books. 18,000 brace were exported to Japan and the southern ports, Hongkong being the greatest market; and I am safe in saying that some mail boats take away as many as 1,000 brace at a time.' Now this quantity is seasonable game; add to it the tons of spoilt birds which arrive here in July, August, and September, and some faint idea may be formed of the vastness of the game supply, which is ever on the increase. The 2,500 brace of birds, then, which fall in a lucky

year to the foreigner's gun are but a drop in the bucket compared with the enormous quantity shot by natives for market purposes, which is now estimated as approaching 40,000 brace in the year."

East Coast Etchings. By HUGH CLIFFORD. Singapore: Straits Times Press. 1896.

MR. CLIFFORD is a lover of the Malay, as he more than once assures us, but in his "etchings" he throws no glamour over their character or the life they lead. His sketches are not rose coloured, some of them, indeed, being hideous, as, for instance, the "Story of a theft," but they are all drawn with consummate skill, and bright and humorous touches are not wanting. On the West Coast, owing to the changes wrought under British protection, the Malay can no longer be seen "in his natural and unregenerate state," but "on the East Coast, things are different, and the Malay States are still what they profess to be—States in which the native element predominates, where the people still think boldly from right to left, and lead much the same lives as those their forbears led before them. Here are still to be found some of the few remaining places, on this overhanded earth, which have as yet been but little disturbed by extraneous influences, and here the lover of things as they are, and ought not to be, may find a dwelling among an unregenerate and more or less uncivilized people, whose customs are still unsullied by European vulgarity, and the surface of whose lives are but little ruffled by the fever-heated breath of European progress."

It is with the East Coast that Mr. Clifford is concerned. The first chapter is devoted to a description of the country and the second to a description of the people of the different states, who vary much between themselves. "The Kelantan man is to the native of Pahang what the water-buffalo is to a short-horn." Following the two opening chapters we have a series of more or less stirring incidents illustrating the life of the people. One of the tales is entitled "One More Unfortunate." A feast is being held in honour of a wedding that is about to take place. The bride is in the inner apartments awaiting the call to the dais.

"Suddenly a dull thud, as of some falling body, was heard in the house. The women rushed in and found the little bride lying on the floor, with all the pretty garments with which she had been bedecked, drenched in her own blood. A small clasp knife lay by her side, and there was a ghastly gash in her throat. The women lifted her up, and strove to stanch the bleeding, and as they fought to stay the life that was ebbing from her the drone of the priests and the beat of the drums came to their ears from the men who were making merry without. Then suddenly the news of what had occurred spread among the guests, and the music died away, and was replaced by a babble of excited voices, all speaking at once. . . . Some months before a Pekan born Malay had come to the Jelai on a trading expedition, and had cast his eyes upon the girl. To her he was all that the people of the surrounding villages were not. He walked with a swagger, wore his weapons and his clothes with an air that none but a coast-bred Malay knows how to assume, and was full of tales which the elders of the village could only listen to with wonder and respect. As the brilliant form of Lancelot burst upon the startled sight of the Lady of Shalot, so did this man—an equally splendid vision in the eyes of this poor little up-country maid—come into her life, bringing with him hopes and desires that she had never before dreamed of. Before so brave a wooer what could her little arts avail. As many better and worse women than she have done before her she gave herself to him, thinking, thereby, to hold him in solemn bonds, through which he might not break; but what was all her life to her was merely a passing incident to him, and one day she learned that he had returned downstream. . . . Her parents, who knew nothing of this intrigue, calmly set about making the arrangements for her marriage, a matter in which, of course, she would be the last person to be consulted. She must have watched these preparations with speechless agony, knowing that the day fixed for the marriage must be that on which her life would

end, for she must long have resolved to die faithful to her false lover, though it was not until the very last moment that she summoned up sufficient courage to take her own life with her own hand."

The following extract shows that the Chinese in the country had formerly not a very safe or pleasant time of it. An old *raja* is narrating to Mr. Clifford some of his experiences:

"I remember once, when I was for the moment rich with the spoils of war, I gambled all the evening in the same house at Klang and lost four thousand dollars. It mattered not at all on which quarter of the mat I staked, nor whether I staked *Ko-o*, *li-am*, or *tang*; I pursued the red half of the dice as one chases a dog, but never once did I fetch it. At last, when my four thousand dollars were finished, I arose and departed, and my liver was hot in my chest. As I came out of the Farm, a Chinaman whom I know, and who loved me, followed after me and said, 'Hai-yah, Ungku, you have lost much to night. That man with whom you gambled was cheating you, for he has a trick whereby he can make the red part of the dice turn to whichever side of the mat he wills.' 'Is this true?' I asked, and he said, 'It is indeed true.'

"Then I loosened the 'Chinese Axe' in its scabbard, and turned back into the Farm. First I seized the Chinaman by the pig-tail, and my followers gathered up all the money on the bank, near seven thousand dollars, so that it needed six men to carry it, and I then departed to my house, none daring to bar my passage."

"When we had entered the house I bade the Chinaman be seated, and told him that I would kill him then and there if he did not show me the trick whereby he had cheated me. This he presently did, and for near two hours I sat watching him and practising, for I had a mind to learn the manner of this art, thinking that hereafter I might profit by it. Then, when the dawn was breaking, I led the Chinaman down to the river by the hand—for I was loth to make a mess within my house—and when I had cut his throat, and sent his body floating down stream, I washed myself, performed my ablutions before prayer, prayed, and went to my bed, for my eyes were heavy with sleep."

"'Kasih-an China!' I said, 'I am sorry for the Chinaman!'"

"Why are you sorry for him?" asked Raja Haji. "He had cheated me and it was not fitting that he should live; besides, he was a Chinaman, and we counted not their lives as being of any worth. In Kinta, before Mr. Birch went to Perak, they had a game called *Main China*, each man betting on the number of the coins which a passing Chinaman carried in his pouch, and whether they were odd or even. Thereafter, when the bets had been made, they would kill the Chinaman and count the coins."

"They might have done that without killing the Chinaman," I said."

"It is true," rejoined Raja Haji, "but it was a more certain way, and, moreover, it increased their pleasure. But, *Tian*, the night is very far advanced. Let us sleep."

SUPREME COURT.

April 22nd.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HON. W. M. GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

TSO TOZ KI V. U LAI WOON.

The plaintiff sought to recover \$16,600, being money lent and interest thereon. Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Mr. Mounsey) appeared for the plaintiff, and Hon. Ho Kai (instructed by Mr. Ho Wyson) appeared for the defendant.

Mr. Francis explained that the action was for the recovery of \$16,600, and the claim was made up of money lent, \$10,000, interest \$6,600. The defendant was not the principal debtor, but was sued as guarantor. The plaintiff's petition showed that he was a gentleman and resided on the first floor of 8, East Street, Hongkong, and the defendant was also a gentleman, residing at 20, Praya Central. On or about the 17th of

December, 1889, the plaintiff at the request of the defendant and of one Lo King Chee lent to Wong Tsik Hing at interest the sum of \$10,000, and in consideration of the loan the defendant and Lo King Chee jointly and each of them severally guaranteed in writing the repayment to the plaintiff of the sum of \$10,000 and interest. The money had not been repaid to the plaintiff by either Wong Tsik Hing or either of the sureties, although they had been repeatedly called on for payment. At the date of the loan Wong Tsik Hing was *compradore* to the firm of Douglas Lapraik and Co., and the defendant and Lo King Chee were sureties for the due and faithful performance by him of his duties as *compradore*. In his answer the defendant denied that he had ever requested the plaintiff to lend to Wong Tsik Hing the sum of \$10,000 or any sum whatever, and stated that by a written agreement made between the plaintiff and Wong Tsik Hing the plaintiff agreed to lend Wong Tsik Hing the sum of \$10,000, which was to be secured by a promissory note from Wong Tsik Hing and guaranteed by defendant and Lo King Chee jointly and not separately for the period of two months only from date and that at the expiration of the two months the plaintiff should make other arrangements with Wong Tsik Hing and release the guarantors, and that in consideration of the defendant signing as guarantor he was to be employed as shipping clerk in the *compradore's* office. This agreement was shown to the defendant at the time and before he signed the promissory note as one of the guarantors. The defendant also stated that the plaintiff, in accordance with the agreement with Wong Tsik Hing and some time after the expiration of the two months, made other arrangements with Wong Tsik Hing concerning the repayment of and security for the \$10,000 and Wong Tsik Hing repaid to the plaintiff \$3,000 and gave him another promissory note to secure the balance of the loan. Defendant further stated that he had never been informed by plaintiff or anyone else that Wong Tsik Hing had not satisfied the promissory note, nor was the defendant called upon until a few days before the commencement of the suit to make good his guarantee in any way. He also stated that the stipulated time of two months had elapsed and that new and different arrangements had been made between the plaintiff and Wong Tsik Hing concerning the repayment and security for the loan, and that he was never appointed to the post of shipping clerk in the *compradore's* office as agreed and he was no longer liable to the plaintiff for the loan or any part of it. Mr. Francis submitted that on the face of these pleadings there was a clear and distinct admission that the defendant became guarantor for the repayment of the sum of \$10,000, and that the only defences set up by the answer were that there was a special agreement to relieve the defendant of all liability at the end of two months and that the plaintiff had been repaid \$3,000 and had taken a promissory note for the balance. Of course if that were true it would amount to giving time to the principal debtor and would probably release the sureties. In reference to these defences counsel submitted that the onus of proof was on the counsel for the defence and it would be for him to begin in the ordinary way.

His Lordship—You must put in the promissory note, because they deny it is a several guarantee. You must show it is a joint and several guarantee.

Mr. Francis—I am quite prepared to withdraw the words "several," because it is absolutely immaterial. Once my friend admits that it is a joint guarantee I withdraw the allegation that there was a separate guarantee, because the law is perfectly clear that it is no defence to an action respecting two joint contractors that one of them is not sued.

His Lordship—The defence say that it was not a several guarantee. It is a curious thing and has been made quite clear that if a promissory note says "I promise to pay so much," and two people sign the note they are made joint and several. If on the other hand the note says "We promise to pay" it is only joint, although in itself it seems to say it is several.

Mr. Francis—I admit at once that my friend is correct in his pleading that it

is not a joint and several promise; it is only joint. I have not the least objection to ask you Lordship to amend my petition by striking out the word "several."

Hon. Ho Kai consented to the amendment, which was thereupon made.

Mr. Francis then explained the facts of the case. In 1889 Wong Tsik Hing was compradore to the firm of Douglas, Lapraik and Co., and the two guarantors were both in the compradore's employ in connection with the firm and were securities for the faithful performance of his duties. In December of that year the compradore was indebted to Douglas, Lapraik and Co., to the extent of about \$40,000, and in the middle of the year he was made a bankrupt. The guarantors were responsible for anything that happened and the defendant had given a mortgage on property belonging to him and his family to Douglas, Lapraik & Co. According to Wong Tsik Hing he was being pressed for payment by the firm and plaintiff was asked to advance \$10,000 for Wong's immediate necessities in connection with the business, and as an inducement plaintiff was offered one half share of the compradore's profits and asked to look after the office and accounts. That proposed arrangement could not be entered into until February, 1890, when plaintiff advanced the money and received from Wong Tsik Hing a promissory note and the defendant and his friend became guarantors. The note contained the following words:—"It is agreed that interest at the rate of \$10 per \$1,000 per month be charged. Use of the money limited to two months, after which principal and interest to be paid in full." When this note was given an agreement was entered into, and in consideration of the advance plaintiff was, at a future date, to enter into partnership in the compradore's business. As a matter of fact, the agreement was never carried out and in July, 1890, Wong Tsik Hing was dismissed by Douglas Lapraik and Co. Lo King Chee disappeared from the colony, while the defendant, after remaining here two years, went to Japan and he returned to the colony in April last year. After detailing the facts counsel suggested that it would be the proper course for his learned friend to proceed with his defence first.

Hon. Ho Kai, before calling his witnesses, said his defence was that the plaintiff undertook to take a new promissory note from the principal debtor after two months had elapsed. He also undertook to look to the principal debtor for the repayment of the whole of the principal and interest and to return to the defendant the original promissory note and release the guarantors from all liability.

The defendant was called and he said he signed to guarantee for only two months, because it was agreed that he should be employed in the shipping office by Wong Shik Hing.

Other witnesses were called and judgment was reserved.

The case was not concluded until last Saturday.

THE HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a monthly meeting of the Committee held at the Chamber's Rooms on the 17th April—Present: Messrs. A. McConachie (Vice-Chairman), J. J. Bell-Irving, N. J. Ede, T. Jackson, St. C. Michaelson, N. A. Siebs, T. H. Whitehead, and R. C. Wilcox (Secretary).

The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

THE COMMITTEE.

The Chairman announced that Mr. R. M. Gray had resigned his seat in consequence of leaving for home.

Mr. Bell-Irving proposed and Mr. Jackson seconded that Mr. Herbert Smith be invited to fill the vacant seat. Carried unanimously.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. H. Wicking was elected a member of the Chamber.

THE WUCHOW OBSTRUCTION CASE.

Read letter from Mr. Sanderson, of Foreign Office, acknowledging receipt by Lord Salisbury of the Chamber's telegram of the 29th February and stating that the matter is being

dealt with by Consul at Canton under instructions from Minister at Peking.

THE INTERVIEW WITH THE NEW BRITISH MINISTER.

An account of the proceedings at the interview of the Committee with H.E. Sir Claude MacDonald on the 4th instant was laid on the table.

PROPOSED CLAIM BY MR. ANDREW FOR DETENTION AT WUCHOW.

Letter read from Mr. Andrew, dated 7th instant, enclosing *pro forma* account of claim he proposes to make on Chinese Government for loss of time, business, and money incurred by his detention at Wuchow and asking Committee to suggest amount of indemnity and support his demand. Resolved that reply be sent, stating it was outside the province of Chamber to fix amount of indemnity, but if he failed to obtain satisfaction the Chamber would be ready to assist him in the prosecution of his claim.

FORTHCOMING CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF THE EMPIRE.

Replies read from Messrs A. G. Wood and E. Ma-kintosh accepting with great pleasure the nomination to act as additional delegates to represent this Chamber at the forthcoming Congress of Chambers.

THE CHAMBER AND THE SANITARY BOARD.

Read a letter from Colonial Secretary, requesting on behalf of H.E. the Governor to know whether the Chamber has changed its opinions on the subject of the Sanitary Board, and, if so, to be informed of the reasons for such change.

Resolved to reply to effect that if the Governor desired an expression of opinion on the subject it would be necessary to ascertain the opinion of the members of the Chamber.

THE ANNUAL REPORT.

The Chairman announced that the report was in the hands of the printers.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO THE CHAMBER.

Foreign Office,

March 3rd, 1896.

Sir,—The Marquis of Salisbury has received your telegram of the 29th ultimo calling attention to the obstruction of the sale of Mr. Andrew's goods at Wuchow-fu.

I am directed by His Lordship to inform you in reply that the case is being dealt with by the Acting British Consul at Canton, who is in communication with Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Peking on the subject.

Mr. Beauchamp has been asked to report the result of the action taken by him in the matter.—I am, sir, your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

The Chairman,
Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on the afternoon of the 23rd April at the offices. Hon. F. A. Cooper (Director of Public Works) presided, and there were also present Mr. H. B. Lethbridge (Acting Captain Superintendent of Police), Dr. J. A. Atkinson (Acting Colonial Surgeon), Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), Mr. N. J. Ede, and Mr. H. McCallum (Secretary).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

CHOLERA AT CALCUTTA.

In reply to a communication from the Colonial Secretary a letter was read from the Under Secretary of the Government of India stating that in the opinion of the Medical Board cholera had not assumed an epidemic form at Calcutta when their last report was issued. Statistics were enclosed.

PLAGUE RAGING AT CANTON.

The Secretary read the following letter:—
H.B.M. Consulate,
Canton, 20th April, 1896.

Sir,—Referring to previous correspondence I have the honour to report that the bubonic plague rages, even more virulently than at date of last report, throughout the city and suburbs of Canton. An out-patient hospital has been opened at the Temple of Longevity and preparations have been made to receive plague

patients sent up by the Tung Wa Hospital on board four boats moored below the southern barrier. The native Press remarks on the strong objection raised amongst the Chinese by what they think the inquisitorial proceedings of the sanitary officers in Hongkong, many men in consequence sending their families out of the colony, and on their rooted prejudice against being treated by European doctors.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

E. H. FRASER,
Acting Consul.

To the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hongkong.
There was no discussion on the letter, which the President said had been sent by the Colonial Secretary for the information of the Board.

Mr. EDE hoped it would not be thought that plague was raging in Hongkong because cases were occurring here.

BAD WELL WATER.

Mr. W. E. Crow, Government Analyst, reported having examined six samples of well water. Four of the samples contained impurities and were unfit for potable purposes; two samples were fit for potable purposes. It was resolved to order the closing of the four tainted wells.

WHO KILLED THE OX?

Chan Po, of 14, Temple Street, applied for \$25 compensation in respect of an ox which was lodged in the Government cow shed about two weeks ago and was found to have been struck dead on the 7th instant. There was no evidence to prove who killed the animal, but there had been a quarrel between two butchers on the other side of the harbour, and there was every reason to believe that the destruction of the animal was a result of the quarrel.—It was resolved to forward the application to the Colonial Secretary and to state that it had been circulated to members.

"A LACK OF PRIVACY": A BROTHEL KEEPER'S APPLICATION.

Lai Lo, living on the first and second floor of 17, Square Street, wrote complaining that on the 4th April the partitions of nine rooms, which were made of new planks, were taken down and burnt; that the cost of partitioning the rooms was \$30, and that the premises are now unoccupied owing to lack of privacy. The petitioner wished to partition off the rooms again, but dared not without authority, nor had she money to buy planks and pay the workmen. She therefore asked for compensation.—The reports showed that the woman was a brothel keeper, and Dr. Clark certified that the wood which was removed was in a filthy condition and unfit to be retained in any habitation. He considered the petitioner had no claim against the Board. She did not need the permission of the Board to erect new partitions, provided there was no mezzanine floor in the room.

On the motion of the PRESIDENT it was resolved to inform the Colonial Secretary that in the opinion of the Board compensation should not be given.

A CASE OF "OCCULT POWER."

Messrs Leigh and Orange again wrote to the Secretary respecting their application to substitute concrete for earth against the walls of 118 and 122, Hollywood Road. They consider that "the regrets the Board express as to our proposals are made under a total misapprehension of the case, and that as engineers and architects of long standing in the colony and with a considerable experience of sanitary matters, we are of opinion that we are not doing a work which calls for the implied censure of your letter."

The Secretary appended the following note—
Messrs. Leigh and Orange appear to be in possession of occult power and can tell when members misapprehend matters.

The President wrote that there was no necessity to continue the correspondence.

It was resolved to acknowledge the receipt of the letter and to inform Messrs. Leigh and Orange that the motion implied no censure on their professional reputation.

MORTALITY STATISTICS.

For the week ended 11th April the death rate was 28.6 per 1,000 per annum, as compared with 8.5 for the corresponding period of last year. For the week ended 18th April the death rate was 24.4 per annum, and at the corresponding period of last year it was 19.2.

MR. KENNEDY AND HIS CATTLE AGAIN.

The following correspondence was laid upon the table:—

Sanitary Board Offices,
4.4.96.

Sir,—I beg to submit the following for your information. On the 2nd instant I noticed in the papers the evidence given by a witness in the Police Court that six cows were landed at the Mica Works on the 11th of March last, and ten more animals landed at the same place some time before belonging to Mr. J. Kennedy, a dairy keeper. I did not receive notice about these animals being landed, which is a distinct breach of No. 1 by-law made under sub-section 1 of section 2 of Ordinance 17 of 1887. I can hardly believe that this breach of the by-law has been committed in ignorance and therefore recommend a prosecution.—I have the honour to be, &c.,

Inspector WILLIAM FISHER,
for Colonial Veterinary Surgeon.
H. McCallum, Esq., Secretary, Sanitary Board
The Secretary wrote to Mr. Kennedy as follows:—

Sanitary Board Rooms,
Hongkong, 6th April, 1896.

Sir,—I have to direct your attention to part of the evidence recently given by your witnesses in the Police Magistrate's Court wherein it is clearly stated that during the month of March, or February and March, some seventeen head of cattle were imported by you and landed at or near to the Mica Works on the Shankiwan Road. The landing of imported animals at this place is a clear breach of by-law 1, Schedule A, of the by-laws made under Ordinance 17 of 1887, and I am to enquire if you have any explanation to offer for deliberately contravening the by-law in question. I enclose herewith for your information a copy of the by-laws in question.—I have, &c.,

H. MCCALLUM,
Secretary.

The following is Mr. Kennedy's reply with Mr. McCallum's marginal notes given in parenthesis:—

Horse Repository,
Hongkong, 6th April, 1896.

Sir,—In reply to your letter of this date in reference to the landing of cattle at the Mica Works Pier I have the honour to bring to your notice, for the information of the Sanitary Board, the extreme and altogether needless inconvenience imposed upon me by the requirements of by-law No. 1 referred to in your letter. [Every law breaker would no doubt express himself to this effect.—H. McC.] With special reference to the cattle in question, I have no hesitation in declaring my conviction that the landing of these at the Wharf and Godown Company's pier would have been an absolute impossibility. [Absurd.—H. McC.] There were several of them in a very wild state, requiring very repressive measures indeed to obtain adequate control of them. One had to be tied head and feet and carried; another had to be bound and dragged after a four-wheeled waggon before she would walk. [Cruelty to animals.—H. McC.] To land such cows as these on a crowded wharf, from which these semi-wild cattle would have had to be driven through crowded streets, would have been, in my opinion, an act of criminal madness. Whatever advantages it is intended to secure, or whatever measure of protection the by-law No. 1 is hoped to secure, these advantages, and an equal degree of protection, could, I submit, be gained by extending the by-law so as to include the Mica Works Pier and the Pier at Causeway Bay behind my premises, and I therefore respectfully solicit the favourable consideration of the Board to that extension of the by-law in question. [This is reasonable, but I would not alter the by-law. I would give special permission in each case.—H. McC.] I would further point out that I have acquired my premises at Causeway Bay since these by-laws were made in 1887, when the necessity of a pier at which cattle could be landed east of the Wharf and Godown Company's Pier was not so greatly felt as it now is, and in view of the positive danger to the public which almost certainly would result were cows in a similar condition to those I have alluded to landed on a thronged wharf and exposed to the noise and

shouting of hundreds of excited Chinese, I trust the Board may concur in the desirability of having another pier included in the by-law so well adapted in every way, both for landing cattle and segregating purposes, as that at the Mica Works.—I have the honour to be, &c.,
J. KENNEDY.

The following minutes were appended:—

The Secretary—Mr. Kennedy expresses no regret at having broken the law. On the contrary, he rails at the law for not being convenient to him. However, as the tone of the letter is, to my mind, entirely due to ignorance, I do not think it is worth while prosecuting the man. However, I do recommend that he be informed that should he again import any animals and land them at any unauthorised place without permission, or fail to report such landing and thus allow of the necessary inspection being made, that a prosecution will be instituted and the full penalty pressed for.

The President—The Board must be informed when the cattle are to be landed to admit of proper inspection. Provision should be made to make reporting compulsory.

Mr. Ede—I concur in the suggestion made by the Secretary and as to amending the by-laws as suggested by the M.O.H. A draft amendment might be made for consideration.

The Medical Officer of Health—The by-law in question appears to contain no provision for the compulsory reporting of each importation of cattle or sheep, although by-law 3 implies that this was the real intention. This is the most important point, and not the locality of the landing stage. I have no objection to the addition of the following words in by-law 1, "or such other place as the Board may from time to time decide," to follow the word "Yau-mai." The Board should, moreover, further amend by-law 1 by the addition of the following clause—"and not less than twenty-four hours' notice of intention to land any such cattle or sheep must be given in writing by the owner or consignee to the Secretary of the Board."

The Acting Captain Superintendent of Police—I agree with Mr. Ede.

Memorandum by the Secretary for members—In prosecuting Mr. Kennedy for selling adulterated milk it came out in the evidence for the defence that Mr. Kennedy had during the month of March imported some seventeen head of cattle and landed them at or near the Mica Works on the Shankiwan Road. As a matter of office routine I asked Mr. Fisher if he had inspected these animals on being imported. He answered that he had no knowledge of any such animals being landed. I referred him to the report of the proceedings in Court which appeared in the *Daily Press* and told him it was his duty to report this breach of the law re the importation of cattle at once. I attach his report and also the draft of a letter to Mr. Kennedy, asking him if he has any explanation to offer for his contravention of by-law 1 of the Cattle Disease by-laws made under Ordinance 7 of 1887.

An amended by-law was submitted giving increased facilities for landing cattle at the various wharves, and making it compulsory to give due notice of landing to the Board.

The by-law was approved.

A CASE OF SMALLPOX.

The Secretary reported a case of smallpox which was discovered on the *Thales* on the 21st inst. The patient, a Malay, is now under treatment on the *Hygiea*.

THE CLEANSING OF HOUSES.

The Medical Officer of Health reported that during the fortnight ended 21st April the cleansing gang had cleansed 1,834 houses, comprising 4,705 floors. In addition, a staff of sailors and soldiers had visited practically every house in the colony searching for sick persons and dead bodies.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Board then adjourned until Thursday week.

The *Shanghai Mercury* of the 22nd April says:—The extraordinary meeting of the Race Club held yesterday evening resulted satisfactorily. Those of the Stewards were induced to withdraw their resignations and the list was strengthened by the appointment, meanwhile, of Messrs. D. Brand, A. R. Burkhill, and Beermann. The Stewards are now Messrs. Boning, Brand, Burkhill, Beermann, Dudgeon, Fearon, and Probst. Mr. Brand addressed the meeting in an able and characteristic speech; and it is to be hoped that the temporary misunderstanding which led to the resignation of the late Stewards has now passed away.

IRISH WIT AND HUMOUR.

LECTURE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

On Monday afternoon His Excellency the Governor, Sir William Robinson, gave a lecture in the Odd Volumes Society's room on "Samples of Irish Wit and Humour and American and other comparisons therewith." Mr. T. Jackson presided and there was a large attendance of ladies and gentlemen.

His Excellency, in his opening remarks, said:—Ladies and gentlemen, "*Nemo mortalium omnibus horis sapit*" is a very old Latin proverb. It means that "no one is wise at all hours." Whilst for an ordinary man it is a satisfactory reflection that the wisest man has his weak moments, it is the reverse when he, the ordinary man himself, has to admit the soft impeachment. Standing face to face with this large audience I am acutely aware of the fact that although I may be doing my duty as President of the Odd Volumes I was not wise in one sense when I rashly promised to appear before you this afternoon. I need not say that I am not an Irishman: If I were I should probably be a more fortunate man than I am. I do not know and cannot imitate the Irish brogue; therefore my lecture is bound from that point of view to be more or less of a failure. My address, if it can be so called, will be a most striking contrast to the interesting and instructive lecture delivered last Friday by the hon. Mr. Pollock, and variety we know is pleasing. The real truth is this, ladies and gentlemen. This Society was formed about three years ago with the object of assisting the moral, social, and literary interests of the younger members of the community, not only by providing for perusal and circulation the works of standard authors, but by debating and lectures and the writing of articles for the "Book Plate." I accepted the presidency of this Society, and I consider that a great responsibility attaches to that position. We want debaters and debates, lecturers and lectures. Lecturers, debaters, and writers have not come forward as I expected, and with a view of encouraging others to do the same I have come forward this evening with a good many jokes and stories strung together in a loose, yet, I hope, amusing manner, and I trust that the example I am about to set will be followed by many other members later on, so that greater vitality may be infused into the Odd Volumes. (Applause.) Sidney Smith once made an immortal remark—I dare not vouch for its accuracy, as there may be some irascible Scotchman in the room. He said "It would take a surgical operation to get a joke into a Scotchman's head." Now Paddy is always either cracking jokes or cracking heads, so much so that it has been asked "What articles used at dessert are most Irishmen like?" Why, nut crackers, of course. (Laughter.) Sir Walter Scott seems to have had somewhat of the same opinion as that expressed by Sidney Smith, for in 1820 he wrote "The Highlander never understands wit or humour, but Paddy, despite all his misery and privations, overflows with both. I suppose he is the gayest fellow in the world." Humour is a natural characteristic of Ireland and Irishmen. It is genial, rollicking, and not offensive. But there is always—saving the presence of our genial Chairman—there is often a good deal of blarney about it. (Laughter.) Any one who reads Lever's novels can find capital samples—specimens to my mind far superior to the humour of our American cousins. Yankee humour mainly consists of amusing exaggeration or grotesque orthography, of which Artemus Ward is a good exponent. We must all admit that wit and humour may have noble ends. It is sensible, moral, recreative, and stimulating in a high degree. Porson said "Wit is the best sense in the world." His Excellency then proceeded to give many samples of wit, amongst which were the following:—

"Man," says a witty proverb, "leads woman to the altar, but there his leadership ends."

An Irishman was tossed over a fence by an infuriated bull. Recovering from his fall he saw the bull pawing and tearing up the ground, whereupon Pat smiling at him said "If it was not for your bowing and scraping and your humble apologies, you brute—faix, I should

think you had thrown me over the fence on purpose."

An Irishman beholding Niagara falls said "What is there here to make such a bother about?" "Why," said his companion, "don't you see that mighty river pouring over into the deep abyss?" "Of course I do, and, sure, what's to hinder it?"

Another Irishman, looking over his doctor's bill, which was an unusually long one, wittily said he would pay for the medicines, but the visits, which were charged for at the rate of a guinea each, he would return.

An Irishman had a drink of whisky sent out to him in a small glass. He was looking askance at the glass a short time when the gentleman who sent him the drink said "Pat, it's prime whisky—fourteen years old." "Fourteen years old, sir! Faith, it's mighty small for its age."

Whisky and Irish humour are unfortunately closely allied. "When the wine is in the wit will out." An Irishman who had been partaking very freely one evening found it necessary to support himself against the wall of a Protestant Church, when a friend passing by asked him if he had joined that establishment. "No," replied the inebriate, "but at present I have a strong leaning that way."

An Irishman once said indignantly "I have heard Mr. Murphy's death reported so often and found it false that I am resolved not to credit it till I hear it from his own lips."

A hospitable Irishman—and hospitality in Ireland is proverbial—when writing to a friend said "If ever you come within twenty miles of my house I shall be mortally offended if you don't stay there all night."

But bulls are by no means confined to Irishmen. I think we can convict even Macaulay of having perpetrated a bull in the "Lays of Ancient Rome" when he sings of the "shouting of the slayers, and the screeching of the slain."

Irish wit is sometimes of a most sardonic kind. Was there ever a more sardonic stroke of description than that O'Connell gave of Sir Robert Peel's bloodlessness? "His smile is like the silver plate on a coffin."

When Erskine heard that somebody had died worth £200,000 he observed "Well, that's a pretty sum to begin the next world with."

To all soliciting his subscription Erskine had a regular form of reply, viz.,—"Sir, I feel much honoured by your application to me and I beg to subscribe" (here the reader had to turn over the leaf) "myself your very obedient servant—T. Erskine."

A gentleman who was one day driving in a "jingle" was very much surprised at the driver descending from the box and opening the door, which he then shut with a loud bang. "Confound you, what's that for?" said the tourist. "Whist, yer honour, whist," said the man, "I'm only desaving the baste when I bang the door. She'll think yer honour's out and will run up the hill like the devil."

Grattan was not what one would call a very religious man. "Do you ever say your prayers?" asked Plunkett. "No, never." "What neither night nor morning?" "Never—but I have aspirations all day long."

It is said that Curran once met his match in the well-known Father O'Leary. "Reverend Father," said Curran, "I wish you were St. Peter." "And why, Counsellor, do you wish I were St. Peter?" "Because, Reverend Father, in that case you would have the keys of heaven and you could let me in." "By my honour and conscience, I consider it would be better for you if I had the keys of the other place, for then I could let you out."

His Excellency concluded as follows:—Well, ladies and gentlemen, I think I must have nearly tried you out. Some of you may say "Sir William, there is no end to your wit," to which, whilst I should reply "Heaven forbid that I should be at my wits' end," I should perhaps admit that for one sitting you had had nearly enough of it. In conclusion, therefore, perhaps it would not be inappropriate to recite to you a few happy specimens of Irish epitaphs.

His Excellency then read some amusing epitaphs, with which he closed his highly interesting paper, which was closely followed. No joke, judging from the frequent bursts of laughter, needed the "surgical operation"

spoken of by Sidney Smith, and at the conclusion a hearty vote of thanks was, on the motion of the Chairman, who himself told two or three capital stories, passed to His Excellency.

Mr. Granville Sharp's lecture on "Imperialism and the British Empire" will be delivered on May 8th and not next Friday as was at first arranged.

THE STRANDING OF THE "EZE."

MARINE COURT OF ENQUIRY.

A Marine Court of Enquiry was held at the Harbour Master's office on the 22nd April to enquire into the stranding of the British steamer *Eze*, which struck on rocks lying off Hong-kong Chau on the morning of the 9th inst.

The Court was composed as follows:—Commander R. Murray Rumsey (Harbour Master), president, Staff Commander C. R. H. Robinson, R.N. (H.M.S. *Victor Emanuel*) Capt. J. H. Rinder (master, *Belgie*), Capt. J. A. Morris (master, *Chowtai*), Capt. H. Pybus (master, *Empress of India*).

Capt. Pell—I am master of the British steamship *Eze*. I hold a master's certificate issued at North Shields on the 14th February, 1881. I have been in command of the *Eze* nearly two years. We left Hongkong at 11.30 a.m. on the 8th April last bound for Saigon in ballast; the ship was drawing 15 ft. aft and 9 ft. forward. The weather was clearing when I left. We proceeded between Green Island and Hongkong and to the westward of Lamma Island. Off the S.W. of Lamma island we entered a thick bank of fog. I slowed down, and kept signals going. After a few minutes I turned round to come back, as the fog was getting denser, and after going a few ships' lengths the weather cleared again all round to the north. I proceeded again on my course for about half a mile, when I again entered the fog bank. I then anchored in Lamma Bay. At 4 a.m. on the 9th, as it was clearer, I began to get under way and a few minutes before six o'clock weighed and set course S.W. (magnetic) to about 1½ miles off Ling Ting island, when I altered the course to south-west by south. I could see the islands; the tops were covered in fog, but below they were clear. When abreast of the first island the chief officer reported eleven miles by the patent log. It was then just about 7 a.m. I estimated that I was about one or one and a half miles off the island. Almost immediately we entered a third bank of fog, which covered everything from view. I immediately slowed the engines and gave instructions to the lookout. Two or three minutes afterwards the lookout and the chief officer reported "rocks on the starboard bow." This was understood on the bridge to be "a junk on the starboard bow." The helm was immediately placed hard to starboard. I asked what it was, and the man at the wheel said "a junk on the starboard bow, sir." The officer then cried out "breakers ahead." I rang the telegraph "full speed ahead," as I considered it the only chance of canting the ship quickly, she being light. She immediately crushed on a rock, bringing the rock to the middle of No. 2 hatchway. We at once stopped and reversed, but finding she did not come away we stopped the engines again. All this time till nearly noon the main island was not visible at all. We went on a rock about two cables' length from the shore. There was a depth of about four fathoms all round the rock and seven to eight fathoms at the stern of the vessel; three feet on the rock on the starboard bilge, and eleven feet on the port bilge. The second officer was sent away shortly after nine o'clock in a junk to Hongkong to report and get assistance. We pumped out No. 1 tank in No. 2 hold, which had been run in for ballast, caulked up the store rooms aft, and pumped water into them. About three o'clock in the afternoon of the 9th the steamer *Petrarch* passed us and in response to our signals for tugs she offered to tow us. We got a 1½-inch hawser attached, but owing to the set of the current she had to anchor. She towed for about an hour and a half and pulled us off from 10 to 15 feet, when the hawser broke. The captain did not think it safe to stay all night and went off to Hongkong to send us assistance. About seven o'clock

the second officer returned with the steam tug *Fame* to enquire what assistance we wanted. I immediately wrote to the agents stating what was necessary and also to the Commodore. Next morning, the 10th, the tug *Fame* returned, bringing with her two junks, in which to put the anchor and chains. H.M.S. *Swift* and the *Fame* then took hold of us, but made no impression whatever. They both left about half-past seven. Directly after they left the steam tug *Dragon* came down. She had lost us in the fog. As the sea was making she lay by us all night. Next morning H.M.S. *Archer* and the *Fame* both came with a new hawser. Each one commenced towing. The *Archer* had difficulty in getting hold of us on account of the set of the tide. They returned to Hongkong again. They did not consider it safe to remain all night. In the meantime my ship's bottom had started to make water. We were able to keep it under with the pumps. At noon a nasty sea sprang up. About 4 o'clock we found the tank and starboard bilges were giving out. We plugged the rivets and holes up with cement. At midnight the weather took off again. Next morning the *Archer*, the tug boats, and two launches came down. Each got hold, except the *Archer*, which had great difficulty in getting into position. As the *Archer* was making fast the ship came off. We proceeded straight to the dock.

Evidence bearing out the captain's statement was given by the chief officer and the man who was steering at the time.

Robert Palmer was next called and said he had been on the *Eze* for about four months as an able seaman. He was called on the look-out about 6.30 a.m. on the 9th inst., and about a quarter of an hour afterwards he reported rocks on the starboard bow. He heard the captain give the order to starboard the helm. A few seconds after he reported breakers ahead. The ship went off about four points to port before she struck.

The following is the finding of the Court—The Court has carefully considered the circumstances which led to the stranding of the vessel as laid before them in the evidence and have come to the conclusion that the casualty was directly due to an error in the position of the ship when the last course was set. They are of opinion that the estimated distance off Ling-ting was erroneous and that in consequence of this error the course afterwards set was not a proper one and they consider that the master should have taken steps to assure himself of his position at that time, seeing that the circumstances of the weather demanded caution and also admitted of some such steps being taken. The attention of the Court is directed to the fact that there was only one officer on deck besides the captain—the chief officer, who was fully employed with the anchor and cables. The remaining officers were below, having been on deck-watch during the night. The Court considers that the master should have had at least one officer with him on the bridge under the circumstances. The conclusion which the Court finds itself obliged to come to is that the ship was not navigated with due care which the circumstances of the weather demanded, and therefore they consider that the captain is deserving of censure, but they are not disposed to say that this error amounted to such wrongful act or default as to cause them to deal with his certificate. After the casualty all was done that was possible with the object of saving the ship, and the officers and crew appear to have conducted themselves in a satisfactory manner.

The *Foochow Echo* says:—It is estimated that the value of the funds sent up country for the purchase of the new season's tea is twenty lakhs of dollars. Included in this estimate is the value of the opium, lead, and piece-goods taken up by the teamen. The total is about the same as last year. We believe that the teamen have gone away well advised as to prospects, and with the depressing accounts of markets in London, Australia, North America, and Canada it certainly behoves them to be cautious about the prices they pay. They must be prepared for a lower scale to rule here, for assuredly foreign buyers cannot afford to run the risk of repeating their purchases at last season's rates.

FLAGRANT CASE OF INCENDIARISM IN HONGKONG.

At twenty minutes past one on the morning of the 22nd April the Fire Brigade were called to an outbreak at a rice shop at 48, Praya West, which is owned by three masters. There can be no doubt that the fire was the work of a gang of desperate incendiaries and fortunately the evidence pointing to this conclusion is abundant, so that it is to be hoped that the criminals will be speedily brought to justice. The building contains three storeys, and two of them were completely gutted, the remaining one, the top floor, sustaining very little damage. The firemen, who were under Mr. Lethbridge and Deputy Superintendent Corcoran, had considerable difficulty in coping with the flames, as the whole place had been practically studded with pots of kerosine and saturated wood and paper, the consequence being that it was not until four o'clock that the fire was got under control. An examination of the premises by the police revealed a startling state of things, the act of incendiarism being the most glaring that one could imagine. The top storey consists of two rooms. In the back room, which was fastened, there was a small tub full of kerosine on the floor under a bed, and near it was a good-sized box containing a large number of joss sticks and paper, all saturated with kerosine. From the appearance of this room the kerosine and paper had evidently been on fire, as the wood was charred, and it is thought that the flames from the first floor caused the ignition and that the fire was shortly afterward choked out by smoke and steam. Similar daring arrangements for the destruction of the place had been made in the front room, where saturated firewood, joss sticks, and paper were found, in addition to a pail of kerosine; but these had not been touched by the fire. On the first floor, immediately underneath the second floor back room, the police came across a small pail containing kerosine, over which a large quantity of firewood was placed, and close by there was another tin of kerosine, which had been ablaze. Nothing suspicious was found on the ground floor, but it is very likely that this was furnished with kerosine tins and paper like the other two. The premises were insured, and two companies are interested, one of them being a company for which Messrs. Sander and Co. are the agents, the amount being \$3,500, and the other the Northern Assurance Company (Messrs. Bradley and Co., agents), the insurance in this Company being for \$2,000.

On the 23rd April Commander Hastings opened an inquiry respecting the fire and continued it on the 25th. Mr. H. L. Dennys appeared for the insurance agents, Messrs. Sander and Co. and Messrs. Bradley and Co., and Mr. Hastings represented the occupants of the house. Since the inquiry was opened five men had been arrested on a charge of arson and it was agreed to take the police evidence and then adjourn the inquiry *sine die* pending the trial of the men, Commander Hastings stating he had visited the premises and had no doubt that the fire was the result of arson. Inspector Witchell described the appearance of the premises, stating that he found joss paper, bags, bed boards, and mats, all saturated with oil, and a tub containing two pints of kerosine oil. There was also a tin of kerosine oil almost in the centre of the shop and a number of bamboo baskets near smelt of kerosine. Books had also been saturated with kerosine. P.C. 541 and Sergeant MacAulay gave evidence and the inquiry was adjourned *sine die*. The charge of arson against the five men will be taken on the 30th.

On the night of the 11th April a gang of some thirty to forty bandits made a raid on a large bank in Wuhu owned by H.E. Li Han-chang—so rumour puts it—and having overpowered the inmates of the bank made off with nearly Tls. 5,000 in silver and gold bars. Not a robber has, so far, been captured and the affair has caused a great stir amongst the official classes of Wuhu, many of whom will lose their buttons through this mishap.—*N. C. Daily News*.

VICTORIA ENGLISH SCHOOLS.

ANNUAL PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

On Saturday morning His Excellency the Governor distributed the prizes at the City Hall to the pupils attending the Victoria English Schools. There was a very large attendance of parents and friends, and before the presentations were made the scholars gave a short musical entertainment.

The HEADMASTER (Mr. W. D. BRAIDWOOD) read the following report:—Your Excellency, ladies, and gentlemen—To-day I have the honour of laying before you the report of Victoria English Schools for the year ending 31st December, 1895. In the early part of the year the prospects of a good report were anything but encouraging, owing to the amount of sickness in the colony, but as time went on circumstances improved and the facilities for doing good work increased.

The number of pupils enrolled during the year was 219, viz.:—152 boys and 67 girls. The average attendance for the year was as nearly as possible, 134, which I find by comparison is slightly above the average for 1893, but there is a marked difference in the nationality of the children. The number of English children is gradually increasing, while the Chinese are decreasing in a corresponding ratio. The school is steadily asserting its character as an English School.

At the annual examination in December 99 pupils were presented—the others not having made the requisite number of attendances—and the pass over all was 93 per cent. The girls as usual led the way with 100 per cent. in all the ordinary subjects. In the Boys' school the papers in arithmetic were exceptionally difficult, and as a consequence a greater number than usual came to grief. A special word of praise is due to the boys of Standard VII. The pupils of this class were examined in eleven subjects—seven ordinary and four special. In ten of the subjects there were no failures and in the remaining subject—Euclid—only two. Dr. Eitel says of this class that the algebra papers were very good. The papers on the special subjects—science, Euclid, algebra, and physical geography—were very much ahead of anything that has been done in former years, the pass being over 92 per cent.

In the Oxford Local Examination our results were better than in any previous year. There were in all twelve passes—one senior, five junior, and six preliminary. Of these three were girls—one junior and two preliminary.

The last examination in connection with the Belilios Trust was held in December, 1894, and although no official report has been issued I understand that in the English division for girls the first three prizes have fallen to three of our girls, viz.:—(1) Laura Botelho, (2) Bella Henderson, (3) Laura Souza. Thus for the fifth year in succession the first prize in this competition has fallen to this school. It is to be regretted that owing to delay in publishing the returns this once popular examination has been robbed of much of its interest. Last year I proposed to start a circulating library for the use of the scholars. The teachers and pupils remember with gratitude that your Excellency was the first donor. The library has been a conspicuous success, and, managed by themselves, has been a source of instruction and delight to many of the children. There are now about 200 volumes in the library, and we shall be pleased to receive others from any of our friends. The results of the examination testify to the good work done by the staff during the year. There are now five English teachers in all. Pupils learning the pianoforte are now taught by a resident governess, Miss Lawrence, who holds the senior certificate for pianoforte playing, Trinity College, London, and has taken honours in harmony. It is proposed to open a class for oil painting as soon as the necessary materials arrive from England.

Our warmest thanks are due to the following gentlemen who have generously contributed to the prize fund:—

Hon. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., T. Jackson, Esq., N. A. Siebs, Esq., A. G. Romano, Esq., J. de Navaro, Esq., D. Musso, Esq., J. McCallum, Esq., D. Warren Smith, Esq., A. Ross, Esq., D. Wood, Esq., J. M. Bass, Esq., W.

G. Humphreys, Esq., D. Haskell, Esq., and M. S. Sassoon, Esq.

After distributing the prizes, His EXCELLENCY said—Ladies and gentlemen, having performed the pleasant duty of presenting the prizes to the successful candidates, it is now my duty to say a few words to the scholars on the subject of their studies and of the Victoria Schools. In the first place, however, let me say that I am very glad to see so large an attendance here this morning. It is a substantial testimony to the popularity of the school—(applause)—and shows what very great interest not only the general public but the relatives of the scholars take in their success. Strictly speaking, this Victoria English School, or these Victoria English Schools, are what are called private venture schools, but as they are not conducted for private emolument, they are officially recognised and come under the grant-in-aid system. You have all heard Mr. Braidwood's report read—this was kind enough to send me a copy of it—and it is a very satisfactory report—(applause)—in fact it is so satisfactory and so full that it leaves me very little more to say than to congratulate the scholars and masters and mistresses for the great success which has attended the operations of this school within the last year. (Applause.) I think that I am justified in stating that if there has been no undue "cramming" and if the weak girls have not been kept back from examination, the success which they have attained has been most remarkable, and I may say of Mrs. Braidwood that if what I have stated is correct she is certainly one of the most effective, if not the most effective teacher in the colony, and that her schools are apparently the best taught schools in Hongkong. (Applause). The boys also are entitled to a great deal of credit and so are their masters. In Mr. Braidwood's report you will see it stated that in mathematics, English composition, and algebra the boys' papers were excellent, very excellent indeed, and this is confirmed in a report which I have had from Dr. Eitel upon the same subject. The total grant earned was over \$1,600, and as remarked by Mr. Braidwood the scholars number 219. Mr. Braidwood states "that as usual the girls led the way with 100 per cent. in all the ordinary subjects." I hope that this will not act as any discouragement to the boys, but will induce them to work all the harder. If they do they will overtake the girls in time I have no doubt; in fact I would recommend some of them to recollect what they sang just now—

We march through thick and thin,
And when we fight we always win

Although we are made of tin. (Laughter.) I am a great advocate for the higher education of women. There is nothing more pleasing in woman than variety and versatility of knowledge and intellect. I say with Shakespeare when speaking of one of his heroines, I say of a well-read, versatile woman "age cannot wither her nor custom stale her infinite variety." All young women ought to know that the most proper sphere for women to shine in is the domestic sphere. I regard the new woman as an abomination. The great object of girls' education should be to cultivate themselves or to be cultivated so as to fulfil properly the duties of daughter, sister, wife, and mother, and these are not inconsistent with the acquisition of all kinds of useful learning. Now, I have no doubt that some of you boys and girls are naturally pleased and gratified at having carried away such handsome prizes, but I would caution you all not to be proud or conceited about it. Recollect that "Wisdom is humble that he knows no more." I have in my office exactly opposite to my desk where I am sitting half the day twenty-four volumes of the "Encyclopædia Britannica" about a footsquare each, and when I look at them I always think that I should be a comparatively learned man if I could master the contents of one of these twenty-four volumes. Therefore, I would recommend to you humility. Boys and girls, I would advise you to remember that there are two educations, the education which is given you all by others and the education which you have in after-life, and a very much more important education, which you give yourselves. You will also recollect, boys and girls, that when you leave school

your work has only just begun. If you want to keep pace with the times you will never cease your pursuit of knowledge. I am exceedingly glad to see from Mr. Braidwood's report that the library has been so great and conspicuous a success, and I will promise certainly when I leave this colony, if not before, to make you a very handsome addition to the existing library. (Applause.) In conclusion, I have only to thank the Committee for kindly asking me to come here to-day, and to congratulate you girls and boys upon your singing, playing, and your pretty little cantata which I enjoyed very much just now, and it will give me very pleasure to watch the success which I feel sure is in store for the Victoria English Schools. (Loud applause.)

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS said—Our warmest thanks are due to His Excellency the Governor or having come here to-day and for having so kindly distributed the prizes to the students of the Victoria English Schools. It is time for us now to go to our luncheon and I will therefore not detain you by making a speech, but I ask you to rise and to give three hearty cheers for His Excellency Sir William Robinson. (Applause.)

Cheers were given for His Excellency and Mr. BRAIDWOOD called for a cheer for the ladies, which was heartily given.

The proceedings concluded with the singing of "God Save the Queen."

PRIZE LIST.

GIRLS' SCHOOL.

Form I.—Maggie Petersen, first, Nellie Phelps, second.

Form II.—M. Campos, first, E. Pereira, second.

Form III.—H. Yvanovich, first, Eva Lewis, second, J. d' Aquino, third.

Form IV.—M. Palmer, first, H. Schmidt, second, Mary Marcus, third.

Form V.—Mabel Humphreys, Arithmetic, Mary Rodger, Composition and Grammar, Annie Baker, Geography.

Form VI.—Bella Henderson, Composition and Grammar, Gertie Rustonjee, History and Geography, Maria Xavier, Arithmetic.

Form VII.—Laura Souza, History dan Grammar, Laura Botelho, Composition and Geography, Anna Souza, Arithmetic.

Division I.—Augusta Souza, Needlework, Leonor Yvanovich, Drawing.

Division II.—Maria Pereira, Drawing and Needlework.

Division III.—(1) Aug. Yvanovich, Drawing, (2) Inez Basa, Drawing and Needlework.

Division IV.—Rose Mackenzie, Writing and Needlework.

Special Prizes—Division I. Laura Souza.

Division II.—Serene Mehta, Home Lessons.

Division III.—M. Palmer.

BOYS.

Form I.—Reading, Egas Alves; Writing, M. Abraham; Arithmetic, F. Ortega.

Form II.—Reading, J. Guedes; Writing, J. Campos; Arithmetic, S. Rotea.

Form III.—Reading, J. Heard; Writing, J. Botelho; Arithmetic, J. Pereira.

Form IV.—Reading, A. Lopez; Writing, T. Consunji; Arithmetic, M. Reyes.

Form V.—Reading and Physical Geography, R. Thompson; Composition, D. J. Cocoran; Arithmetic and Euclid, Ong Long Fung; Spelling and Meaning, R. Cocoran; Euclid and Grammar, J. H. Rustonjee; Reading, Spelling, and Intelligence, Ed. Haskell.

Form VI.—Reading and Geography, M. E. Asger; Spelling and Meaning, D. E. Bellios; Euclid, Arithmetic, and Geography, H. Yacobji; Grammar, A. Rahman; History, J. Jordan; Composition, F. Baker; Physical Geography, E. Abdalcader; Mapping, R. Vasquez.

Form VII.—Geography and Euclid, C. E. Lammert; Grammar and Algebra, A. Humphreys; Arithmetic, G. Rapp; Composition, B. Kennett; Writing, R. Basa.

Form X. VII.—Arithmetic, A. von Stockhausen; History and Shakespeare, Ed. Haskell; Grammar, R. E. Asger.

Special Prize.—Drawing, M. Abdollah.

Oxford Local Examination—Senior, Peter Botelho, A.A., Junior, R. E. Bellios, L. E. Lammert, T. L. Stevens, A. von Stockhausen, Laura Souza. Preliminary.—J. P. Jordan, F. Baker, A. S. Kennett, E. G. Smith, Mary Rodger, Bella Henderson.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

PRESENTATION TO MR. E. D. SANDERS.

On Saturday evening a smoking concert was held in the gymnasium of the Victoria Recreation Club, when Mr. E. D. Sanders, who has been honorary secretary of the Club for the past five years, was presented with a very handsome gold watch. Mr. Sanders is leaving the colony on leave next Wednesday and as his services to the club during his term of office have been of the utmost value it was only to be expected that the members would turn up in full force for the leave-taking ceremony. Commander W. C. H. Hastings presided, and amongst those present in the crowded room was Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart (Colonial Secretary.) After four items in the first part of the programme had been gone through the Chairman announced "the gem of the evening."

Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart then rose and said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have been asked to perform a duty and it is with the greatest pleasure that I am about to perform it; indeed so far from regarding it as a duty I regard it as an honour. I have been asked to-night to present to Mr. Sanders, on behalf of the members of the Victoria Recreation Club, a slight souvenir of the very great esteem in which he is held and of the high appreciation entertained by the members of the very excellent services he has rendered to this Club. (Applause.) It is particularly gratifying to me to be able to do this because I had the pleasure of serving as Chairman of this Club with Mr. Sanders as hon. secretary during many years. I am therefore in a position to be able to judge of the excellent manner in which he has performed the duties of hon. secretary. (Applause.) Mr. Sanders has been honorary secretary of this Club for a period extending over five years. (Applause.) I am certain that every member present will agree with me when I say he has performed the duties of that post in a manner which has entirely satisfied every member of the Club. (Applause.) When I say that, it is saying a great deal. As you are all aware, this is the most cosmopolitan club in Hongkong, and to be able to discharge the duties of hon. secretary in a manner which satisfies every individual member shows that the person who is able to do that is possessed of a tact which is much to be envied. (Applause.) That Mr. Sanders possesses such tact is certain, and I am sure you will all agree with me that he has done everything in his power to promote the welfare of this Club from every point of view. (Applause.) Financially the Club is in a much sounder position than when he took up the duties of hon. secretary. Of course in dealing with the finances of the Club he has been materially aided by the Committee and by the hon. treasurers. But it is fortunate that the hon. secretary and hon. treasurers have for some time past hailed from an institution which is a great financial success itself. That is a sufficient omen that anybody belonging to it will make a club with which they are connected a financial success too. A few moments ago I jotted down the names of gentlemen connected with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank who have been hon. treasurers of this Club. I find the names of Bevis, Coombs, Addis, Wright, Hutton, and Fearon. Mr. Greig, formerly manager of the Bank, I think, was chairman, and Mr. Thomas Jackson was chairman for ten years. With such support from the Bank it is not surprising that the Club has been so highly successful. (Applause.) But in addition to having hon. treasurers and Chairmen from the bank we have also been fortunate in finding in Mr. Sanders an hon. secretary who comes from that institution. I only hope for the sake of the Club that the hon. secretary who succeeds Mr. Sanders will prove as successful as he has done. Without any exaggeration I may say that Mr. Sanders has been the mainstay of the Club for the past five years. (Applause.) As a rowing member he has not only done everything to induce members to participate in that sport but he has been an active and successful oar himself and has won many prizes. He has stroked Ireland successfully to victory in the International. (Applause.) I am very glad he has done so, but I am also pleased

he was beaten last year by the Scotch. I am sure that was not the fault of Mr. Sanders or any of his crew, and the defeat must be attributed to the fact that the Scotch were too good for them, on that occasion, at any rate. (Laughter.) Not only in connection with rowing has Mr. Sanders been an active member of this Club, but he has also succeeded in bringing athletics under the aegis of the V. R. C. for the past two or three years, and it is owing to the tact, energy, and popularity of Mr. Sanders that the athletic sports have recently been so successful. (Applause.) Mr. Sanders, as you are all aware, is also a very excellent forward at Rugby football, and I am perfectly certain that if he had his way he would also take football under the aegis of this Club. (Applause.) In saying good-bye to Mr. Sanders I am certain we all do so with very great regret. He is going to enjoy a very well-earned holiday and we all wish him very great happiness in the old country. In saying good bye I want you all to join with me in wishing him every possible success that can attend a mortal. (Applause.) In a colony like Hongkong, where business as a rule has to come before pleasure, it is fortunate we are able to find members of this Club like Mr. Sanders who are willing to come forward and devote time and attention to sport. If we want to have a healthy community sports and manly exercises must be encouraged—(applause)—and if this colony had no residents like Mr. Sanders I am afraid its health would suffer. (Applause.) I only hope and trust that the line of Sanders will continue for many years either directly or indirectly. (Applause.)

The company then rose and lustily sang "For he's a jolly good fellow," after which,

Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart, addressing Mr. Sanders, said—On behalf of the members of the Victoria Recreation Club I have to ask you to accept this slight souvenir of their good feeling towards you and to say that they are exceedingly sorry you are leaving them. They hope you will soon return and that your associations with this Club will be renewed when you come back to Hongkong. (Applause.) You may rest assured that the members of the V. R. C. will always remember the kindness which you have shown to the members of this Club and the energetic manner in which you have discharged the very onerous duties which have been entrusted to you as hon. secretary. (Loud applause.)

Hon. J. H. Stewart-Lockhart then handed the gold watch to Mr. Sanders.

Mr. Sanders, in reply, said—Mr. Chairman, Mr. Lockhart, and members of the V.R.C., I can assure you that to receive a souvenir like this from you all gives me the very greatest pleasure. I have now been connected with the V.R.C. for close on five years and Mr. Lockhart has referred to what he considers my laborious work during that time. The work was not half so laborious as Mr. Lockhart makes out and it always gave me the greatest pleasure to be connected with the Club and to be connected with the Committee that had to look after the welfare of the Club, which, I may say, has nearly always been run so harmoniously. (Applause.) There is one thing which I cannot help looking at with regret and that is that I am to-day within the same building that I was in five years ago. Five years ago the building and the site were considered inadequate for the requirements of the Club. The membership is larger to-day than it was five years ago when the building and site did not meet the requirements. Many attempts have been made to obtain a new site, and I consider this Club has a very great advantage in having as its President His Excellency the Governor. (Applause.) His Excellency, I may say, has on many occasions interested himself with this Club, and I am perfectly certain that he would do anything he could for us, because he recognises the fact that the site is unbecoming to the most active recreation club in the colony. (Applause.) I am quite certain that should an opportunity arise when an available site can be obtained your Committee, with their energetic Chairman, Captain Hastings, will approach His Excellency the Governor on the subject, and His Excellency, I feel sure, will put a favourable minute upon the requisition and will hand it over to my old friend Mr. Lockhart, who will do likewise in bringing the

subject before the Government. (Applause). Gentlemen, I do not think there is anything more for me to say, but I assure you that I deeply feel the honour you have done me and the good fellowship which has united you all to present me with this souvenir, which I shall always look upon with the greatest pleasure in years to come. I can only add that I have handed the position of hon. secretary of this Club to Mr. Armstrong, who, I am absolutely certain, will run it with the greatest possible success. (Applause). Gentlemen, I thank you all for your souvenir, and when I leave Hongkong I shall look back to the happy days that I have had in the colony, and those happy days have been mostly due to my connection with the V. R. C. (Applause.)

The programme of music was an exceptionally good one and the many contributions were highly appreciated. Dr. Meadows kindly favoured the Club with his presence and it is needless to say that everyone was most enthusiastic in praising his singing. He had to respond four times to encores. The remaining gentlemen who contributed to the harmony of the evening were Messrs. H. B. Bridger, E. J. H. Bentley, W. Dannenberg, S. Robinson, E. Joseph, E. Mirow, and C. T. Robinson. The string band of H. M. S. Centurion played some capital selections and Messrs. Grimbale and Lea acted as accompanists. The proceedings concluded with the toast "Success to the V. R. C." proposed by Mr. Sanders.

THE RIFLE BRIGADE REGIMENTAL PLATE.

The Rifle Brigade Regimental Plate was run for on the afternoon of the 23rd April over the steeplechase course on the Happy Valley and resulted as follows:—

One and a quarter mile. Catch weights over 12 stone.

Capt. Radclyffe's Koumiss	(Owner)	1
Mr. Salmon's Q.C.	(Owner)	2
Mr. Holland's Vapour	(Mr. Power)	3
Capt. Patton Bethune's Monte Cristo	(Owner)	4

Mr. Salmon's Gibraltar (Mr. Percival) 5
Mr. Holland's Cocktail (Owner) 0
Vapour got away in front and led up to the second flight of hurdles, where he ran out and took the rest with him. They were soon got straight again and Monte Cristo led over the water, followed closely by Q.C., Koumiss, and Gibraltar, which order was kept till passing the Green Gates, when Capt. Radclyffe sent Koumiss to the front and making the remainder of the running won easily by eight lengths. A capital race for second place resulted in favour of Q.C. by half a length, with Monte Cristo close up fourth.

The trophy was presented to the winner by Mrs. Norcott after the race.

Capt. Burney kindly acted as starter and Lieut.-Colonel Tha O'Gorman as judge. An excellent course was kindly made up by Mr. Hough.

THE POLO TOURNAMENT.

On the afternoon, of the 24th April in delightful weather, the final of the Polo Tournament was played between Capt. Loveband's team and Capt. Burney's team, which were composed as follows:—

Capt. Loveband	back	Capt. Burney	back
Capt. Nugent	3	Lieut. Digby	3
Mr. Gresson	2	Lieut. Grayson	3
Mr. Cruickshank, B.A.	1	Capt. Bethune	1

There was a large attendance as usual, including the Governor, Major-General and Mrs. Black, the Commodore and Mrs. Boyes, and many others, all eager to see the result.

The game was a splendid exhibition of infringement of the rules and will undoubtedly bring clearly to the minds of Polo players the result of playing "off side" and "crossing," &c. Within three minutes of the commencement of play two "off sides" and one "cross" were given against Capt. Burney's team. The game was rather sticky at first, but soon warmed up and Burney's forwards, forcing the game, succeeded in getting it down into their adversaries' territory and Digby put it between the flags. First blood for Burney's team. Ends

were now changed and the ball was once more started from the centre and play became rather more rapid, but both "backs" seemed to be saving their ponies. However, Loveband's team got possession and Gresson ran the ball down into dangerous proximity to the goal, Burney saving with a back hander, which, however, only let Loveband in, who, making an excellent cross hit, sent the ball between the flags, and the bell rang, leaving the score at Burney's team one goal, Loveband's team one goal.

At the recommencement of hostilities again ends were changed and the ball was set going in the centre. Play became much faster this quarter and Burney's team got the ball down to the stable goal end, when Cruickshank gave an "off side." A free hit was claimed and there was every look like a goal. Burney "centred" the ball, being at too great an angle to try for a goal, but unfortunately it failed to score. The hit out resulted in a rush and Gresson ran the ball down the ground, but, crossing and re-crossing, Burney was finally appealed against for dangerous riding and the ball was brought back to the stable goal end. Burney took a free hit and sending the ball to the centre rode after it and put it between the flags. This made Burney's team two goals, Loveband's one. Ends were changed and the ball set going. Play now was a bit up and down pretty fast, but out of a melée nearly in the centre of the ground Loveband hit an enormously long stroke and sent the ball through the goal. Score, two all. Only twenty seconds remained to play. The ball was thrown in the centre and both backs rode to score and Loveband meeting a rather fast ball hit a wonderful stroke and following it up hit a long ball, sending it between the flags, the goal being absolutely unprotected. This finished the game, at Loveband three goals, Burney two. Mrs. Black very graciously presented the Cup to Mr. Cruickshank, who being the youngest member was deputed by Capt. Loveband to receive it and was greeted by rounds and rounds of well deserved applause. This brought an excellent game to a close and there is no doubt that the tournament has given an immense impulse to Polo and let us hope has inspired Polo players generally with a desire to improve their play and thus improve the game. Capt. Loveband's win is a very popular one, and deservedly so, and we hope he may often play on the winning side.

ON LOOKER.

"OFF SIDE" AND "FOULS" AT POLO.

The next most important point at Polo after "crossing" is the consideration of "off side" and those of "fouls." The definition of "off side" given by the I. P. A. R. is to the effect that a player is "off side" if when the ball is last struck or played at there is no player of the opposite side between him and the adversaries' goal and that he is neither in possession of the ball himself nor following up one of his own side who is in possession of the ball, and, further, that he remains "off side" until either one of his own side passes him, who is on side, or the ball is struck or "played at" again and at that moment there is one of his opponents between him and the adversaries' goal. All the words in italics are most important, as they constitute the essence of being "off side." You often hear a player say "Off side; rot! why look at so-and-so," perhaps some short time after the ball has been struck or "played at," quite forgetting that although so-and-so may be between him and the adversary's goal now he was not so at the time the ball was struck or "played at." A clever "back" will often put "No. 1" off side by taking a pull at his pony just as the ball is being struck, or, possibly, when one of his own side is playing a back hander, he will quickly turn round and thus have "No. 1" off side. I have seen a good back riding to take a "back hander," and being ridden off by Nos. 1 and 2 of the opposite side, quickly turn as his own No. 3 took a "back hander," and galloping down the ground backing "No. 3" up keep Nos. 1 and 2 of the opposite side "off side" all the time, until reaching the further end they managed to get "on side," only in time to see a goal hit and with which they were

powerless to interfere, being "off side." Polo when played to rule is like all other games, far more scientific, far more interesting to watch, and far better sport than the game becomes when rules are disregarded. One more point before I pass this subject. I would call particular attention to the words "until he is passed by one of his own side who is on side." Now one of his own side to be on side must either be in possession of the ball or have been on side when the ball was last struck or played at; thus No. 2 bringing the ball down the ground No. 1 rides off the "back" of the opposing side, and the "back" taking a pull just as No. 2 strikes the ball puts No. 1 "off side" and he remains "off side" until No. 2 passes him or until the ball is "played at" or "struck" again and he is on side at the moment. It will readily be seen from the foregoing that an umpire can alone decide who is "off side," as the players themselves have enough to do in watching the game (of course, flagrant cases are apparent to anyone) and the I.P.A.R. lay down that it is the duty of such umpire to declare the "off side" whether appealed to or not. There is no penalty for actually being "off side;" the penalty is incurred when you interfere with the game where you are "off side" and this penalty holds good whether your interference is wittingly or unwittingly. By interference is meant any attempt to hit or stop the ball or to prevent another from hitting the ball either by riding him off or getting in his way. Thus an unmanageable pony may incur the penalty of "off side" against the rider's wish; it is nevertheless to be incurred, and it is to be remembered that it is incurred however slight this interference is, so long as the umpire considers that it was interference.

Now to consider what may constitute a "foul." Of course "crossing" and "off side" constitute fouls; but there are other causes of foul, and these are to be found in the contravention of the rules of the game; for instance, a player is allowed to hook another's stick only under certain conditions, and therefore if he breaks this rule he incurs the penalty of a foul, which is commonly known as an ordinary foul. The penalty for a "cross," although being a foul, is a special one and only incurred under rule 25. All other fouls have two penalties, which are optional to the side entitled to the claim, viz., either to have a free hit from the spot where the foul took place, or to make the side causing the foul to play the ball out from behind their goal line, the same as if they had hit it there themselves.

Now we come to "dangerous riding." This need be the contravention of no particular rules, but merely the fact of riding dangerously. The umpire is at liberty to warn a player for dangerous riding and if he persists to order him off the ground. In an ordinary case of dangerous riding he may bring it under rule 25 and give the penalty for a "cross." The point where dangerous riding commences without contravening the actual rules of the game must be left entirely to the umpire. For instance, a player taking the ball down the ground and being "ridden off" by an adversary on the near side takes the ball under his pony's neck, cutting it to the left and thereupon alters his course to the left in such a manner as to absolutely preclude his adversary from complying with rule 26, is guilty of "dangerous riding." Again, a player who, riding to take a ball backhanded with his adversary coming up on his "off" side, takes the ball and immediately turns to his right is again guilty of dangerous riding. So also a player riding into another at an angle, instead of first turning his pony into the direction the player is going in, with a view of riding him off, is guilty of "dangerous riding." Galloping in front of a player and then suddenly pulling up over the ball would also come under the heading of dangerous riding under certain circumstances. It will be seen therefore that the question of dangerous riding must be left entirely to the umpire, as it does not necessarily require the contravention of any particular rule. An example, the player who, riding down the ground and being ridden off on his near side, hits the ball to his left and then alters his course in such a manner as to cross the line of direction of the other pony, without the possibility of that player complying with rule 26, although not being guilty of crossing (being in possession

of the ball), is nevertheless guilty of "dangerous riding" and therefore under rule 41 incurs the same penalty as "crossing" and also renders himself liable to rule 7. An umpire cannot be too severe in these cases, as such, together with "crossing," have been the causes of many if not all the accidents that have occurred at Polo.

My next article will be on the "duties of each player."

ON LOOKER.

DUTIES OF PLAYERS AT POLO.

Having discussed the rules of the game we are now in a position to review the several duties of each player.

No. 1.

(a.)—He should be well mounted on a "handy" pony, and fast, and should recognise that on his unselfishness much of the success of the game depends.

(b.)—His primary duty is to "ride off" the "back" and prevent getting "off side," and, further, when "off side" to get "on side" as quickly as he can.

Taking that his general position is near the "back" of the opposing side, it alters at different stages of the game and perhaps we cannot do better than to take some of the positions he should fill.

When the ball is being thrown in his position is nearest the ball; he should endeavour to intercept the ball by his stick or his pony, and if successful he should immediately ride on, leaving the ball for his No. 2 to hit, who, in his turn (if he gets possession), will either ride on with it or, leaving it for his No. 3, ride on to keep his opponents off, according to circumstances. Method of this nature generally results in success. When his side have possession, No. 1 should ride forward and try and keep the "back" of the opposite side off the ball. If he cannot actually do this he should nevertheless try, as by doing so he disconcerts the "back" and generally spoils his stroke. This is where a good No. 1 shines. I have known cases where by riding in in what appeared to be a forlorn chance of reaching the "back" ere he made his stroke, No. 1 has so disconcerted him as to cause him to miss the ball or just top it, and gaining possession himself has sailed in and hit a goal. Under any circumstances he can do no harm, for if the "back" gets his stroke and rides forward with the ball his (the back's) No. 3 should fall back and thus No. 1, wheeling round and getting "on side," is in a favourable position to ride No. 3 off, to whom he should devote his attention when the "back" goes up. When the ball is being hit in from behind his adversary's goal his position is in line with the 30 yard flag and facing the ball. As soon as it is over the line he should, selecting a line parallel to its direction of travel, ride in and try and put the "back" off his stroke. Weak attempts to do this are naturally attended with failure; but determined attempts on a fast pony invariably do some good and often result in complete success.

When the ball is being hit in from behind his own goal his position is near No. 3 of the opposing side, but irrespective of him he should be on the same side of the ground as the ball is coming out on and as soon as it passes No. 2 of his opponents he should ride on to the "back." There are occasions when, being surrounded by opponents, he should take the ball on himself and then ride the "back" off. When the ball has been hit behind his goal by one of his own side and is being brought out he should start at a gallop with the ball as it is struck and either ride on ahead to ride off the first opponent who endeavours to intercept it, or feeling that his own side have or will lose possession he should take it on himself. When a corner hit is being made against him he should ride hard for the ball, coming as much in the direction from which it was hit as he can, so as to place himself in possession as against his opponents who are out in the field of play, as they will then under rule 26 have to give way to him, provided they cannot hit the ball before he gets there; he must therefore be careful not to foul a player who manages to hit the ball before he gets to him, as he will then himself be contravening

rule 26. These are the special positions of No. 1, whose duties being the most important on the field call for more comment than the others. In other positions he should be near the "back" of the opposing team and ready at any time to ride off for his own side any opponent who may at the moment be in a position to interfere with the would-be striker of the ball. It may be fairly said that games are generally saved, and invariably won, by good, unselfish Nos. 1.

No. 2.

(a.)—He is primarily responsible for keeping the ball in the adversary's territory.

(b.)—He should be ready at all times to "ride No. 3 off" and to "ride off" at all times when his own No. 3 or "back" is in possession.

(c.)—He should take No. 1's place and ride the "back" off when No. 1 gets possession of the ball and keeps it.

No. 2's duties are mixed up freely with No. 1's and what applies to No. 1 with regard to "back" applies to No. 2 with regard to No. 3. He should never hesitate to hit the ball unless he sees his own No. 3 behind him and an unchallenged opponent in front, when he should ride that opponent off and leave the ball to No. 3. When the ball is being hit out from behind his goal under rule 20 he generally hits it out.

No. 3.

(a.)—He is the hitter, and upon his expertness in this direction the fastness of the game depends.

(b.)—He should always cover his "back" when the latter goes forward with the ball.

(c.)—He should always ride to save a goal in case the "back" fails to do so.

"Back."

(a.)—The "back" is the reserve or defender in the game. He should be a good hitter, both forward and back handed, should be on a fast pony, and very "handy."

(b.)—He should avoid meeting the ball or taking cross hits.

(c.)—He should not play too close up to the others, but should always be sufficiently near to be ready to back his side up or to stop the ball entering his territory.

The "back" is a very important man in a losing game, especially as time after time he will be called upon to save his side when he is being, in all probability, pressed by the other side. He therefore requires to be a cool headed player, with lots of judgment, able to take in the position of the players at a glance. The difference between a good back and a bad one is very apparent in the way he plays the ball. The former will invariably play it to his own side, and if they are away he will play it away from in front his goal, whether he be playing it forward or taking a back hander, but more especially in the latter case. He looks to No. 3 to assist him out of difficulties and should never be entirely unsupported. As a rule, he should be the captain of the team and his instructions should be law.

A well drilled team will not only exemplify the carrying out of all the foregoing duties, but they will demonstrate what may be termed cohesive and intelligent play. You will seldom see them take the ball down the ground, after experiencing great difficulty in doing so, and getting it to one side of the goal recklessly hit at it and drive it behind the goal line; but as soon as all hope of correcting its direction is over an intelligent player will try to "centre" it, and cohesion in a team will ensure one of his own side being on the look out for the ball when "centred" to drive it through between the posts. Maxims:—"Never jostle your own side;" "never ride too near your own side when backing him up;" "never ride past him on either side, close to, when he is just taking the ball;" and always give way if you consider he has a better chance of scoring than yourself; always avoid hitting the ball on the "near" side when you can hit it on the "off." If you pay but ordinary attention to these injunctions you will soon acquire the reputation of being a good Polo player.

ON LOOKER.

THE LAWN TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

The following ties have been played of during the week:—

22ND APRIL.

Professional Pairs.—Eccles and Ferguson beat Potts and Stewart—8-6, 1-6, 6-4.

Double Handicap.—Smith and Atkinson beat Percival and Knox.

B. Class Handicap.—Donald beat Fredericks—1-6, 6-1, 6-3. Hanisch beat Wood—6-0, 6-1.

23RD APRIL.

Double Handicap.—Hanisch and Wade, receive $\frac{1}{2}$ 15, beat Hazeland and Gale, scratch—6-2, 6-1.

"A" Class Handicap.—Anton, owe 15.1, beat Potts, owe 15. Skelton, owe $\frac{1}{2}$ 15, beat F. Maitland, owe 30.

"B" Class Handicap.—Belilios, receive $\frac{1}{2}$ 15, beat Mancell, owe 30.

24TH APRIL.

Championship.—Knox beat Slade—4-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-0, 6-2.

Double Handicap.—Mancell and Skelton, owe $\frac{1}{2}$ 15, beat Deacon and Hume, receive $\frac{1}{2}$ 15—5-7, 6-2, 6-0.

"A" Class Single Handicap.—Firth, owe 30, beat Ferguson, scratch—6-3, 3-6, 6-0.

Professional Pairs.—Mounsey and Grist (lawyers) beat Brown and Mackay (merchants)—6-2, 3-6, 6-3.

25TH APRIL.

Double Handicap.—Firth and F. Maitland, owe 30, beat Tomes and Stewart, owe $\frac{1}{2}$ 15—5-7, 6-4, 6-1. Ram and Potts, owe 15.1, beat Cruickshank and Gresson, scratch—7-5, 6-1.

"A" Class Single Handicap.—Atkinson, owe $\frac{1}{2}$ 15, beat Gresson, owe $\frac{1}{2}$ 15—6-2, 6-1.

"B" Class Handicap.—O. Stewart, receive $\frac{1}{2}$ 15, beat Deacon, owe 15—6-0 6-0.

Professional Pairs.—Percival and Knox, Army, beat Paddy and Hume, bankers.

26TH APRIL.

Double Handicap.—Inglis and E. W. Maitland, owe $\frac{1}{2}$ 15, beat Ezekiel and Anderson, receive $\frac{1}{2}$ 15.

"A" Class Single Handicap.—Johnston, owe 15.1, beat Mounsey, owe $\frac{1}{2}$ 15—8-6, 6-1. Atkinson, owe $\frac{1}{2}$ 15, beat Skelton, owe $\frac{1}{2}$ 15—6-3, 6-3.

Professional Pairs.—Percival and Knox, Army, beat Eccles and Ferguson, Army—6-2, 6-2.

H.K.V.C. FIELD BATTERY.

The first of a series of six competitions for a Winchester rifle presented by Captain MacCallum and subscription spoons took place on Saturday, on the Police Range. Twenty-five members of the Battery competed, the highest scores being as under:—

	200	400	500	H'cap. points	Tth
Sergt. McPhail	32	32	23	—	87
(Winner of Spoon)					
Gunner Meek	26	27	15	18	86
(Winner of Spoon)					
Sergt. Hayward	27	26	26	3	82
Gunner Fisher	29	21	19	13	82
Corp. Henderson	29	27	24	—	80

RIFLE MATCHES.

"CENTURION" RIFLE CLUB v. POLICE.

A match took place on the 23rd April between the above teams, resulting in a victory for the Centurion. Some very fine shooting was made, in which A.B. Jones, P. O. Watts, P. O. Gordon, and Sergts. McLennon and Scott distinguished themselves. The following are the total scores:—

"CENTURION."		POLICE.	
A. B. Jones	96	Sergt. Scott	83
P.O. 1 Cl. Watts	92	Sergt. McLennon	82
Mr. Saunders	90	Insp. Butlin	81
P.O. 2nd Cl. Gordon	90	Sergt. Ritchie	81
Sergt. Box	81	Sergt. Robertson	80
Gunner Tothill	74	Insp. Duncan	71
A.B. Jones	75	Sergt. McIver	66
A. B. Edwards	71	Sergt. Withers	54
	669		598

RIFLE BRIGADE v. H.M.S. "CENTURION" (RETURN.)

The above was fired on the 23rd April at Kowloon, and resulted in a substantial victory for the

R. B. by 36 points. There was a strong wind blowing at the 600 yards range. Capt. Ferguson and Mr. Power shot in fine form.

RIFLE BRIGADE.

	200	500	600	Ttl.
Capt. Ferguson	31	33	30	94
2nd Lieut. D. Power	32	33	29	94
Capt. Bethune	30	30	31	91
Qr.-Mr. Hoey	28	31	29	88
Lieut.-Colonel Norcott	29	31	23	83
Capt. Eccles	31	26	21	78
Lieut. Percival	27	20	29	76
Major Pemberton	30	23	20	73

675

H.M.S. "CENTURION."

Lt. Sir R. K. Arbuthnot	32	26	26	84
Sub-Lt. W. G. A. Kennedy	28	25	30	83
Lieut. F. A. Powlett	29	26	27	82
Lieut. O'Farrell	30	28	23	81
Lieut. D. L. Dent	28	31	21	80
Mr. R. Skelton	28	29	22	79
Lieut. H. W. James	29	26	24	79
Lt. Homfray, R.M.A.	27	23	21	71

639

ROYAL HONGKONG YACHT CLUB.

FINAL CLUB RACE, 19TH APRIL.

The course was round Stonecutters Island, Kowloon Rock, and Channel Rocks, leaving all to starboard: 13 miles.

A light easterly breeze was blowing at the start, and Princess showed the way over the line. All had spinnakers to starboard, and made short tracks of the run to the west end of Stonecutters. Erica held a slight lead. Payne kept more to the southward than the others, but they all came together in the well-known doldrums under the lee of the island. Meteor got through into the breeze first, Erica close up; Princess had her wind clear, and Ladybird and Payne were having a great struggle for fourth place, but were being steadily dropped by the three cracks in the long beat to windward. Several short tacks were made in the neighbourhood of the Kowloon Wharfs, and Princess at one time weathered Erica. Crossing the starting line the reverse way the times were:—

	H.	M.	S.
Meteor	12	35	45
Erica	12	38	20
Princess	12	39	0
Ladybird	12	44	20
Payne	12	45	10

Sheets were checked at Hung Hom Docks for the short reach to Kowloon Rock, which was rounded in the same order, except that Payne had passed Ladybird. At the Channel Rocks the times of the leading boats were:—

	H.	M.	S.
Meteor	1	20	28
Princess	1	23	48
Erica	1	23	58

Spinnakers were set to port for the run home, but the ebb tide had begun to run, there was little weight in the wind, and the finishing line was crossed as follows.

	H.	M.	S.
Meteor	1	57	0
Erica	1	58	50
Payne	2	9	55
Ladybird	2	10	44

Princess did not finish the course.

Meteor gets ... 10 points.

Erica ... 4 "

Ladybird ... 1 "

The result of the season's Club races is:—

Erica	62 points	First class.
Meteor	56 "	
Princess	42 "	
Dart	14 "	
Ladybird	4 "	
Payne	3 "	Second class.
She	60 "	
Seabreeze	10 "	
Arrow	40 "	Handicap class.

APRIL 26TH, 1896.

In the morning we set sail,
Though it blew a moderate Gale,
For the race for Denison's cup;
We lashed the luncheon basket
Amidship's with a gasket,
And we set the main-purchase up.

We looked out for the flag,
But they didn't hoist the rag,
And we never heard the gun,
But the "Arrow" forward flew,
And the "Payne and Pleasure" too,
Which showed us the race had begun.

The "Pirouette" was found
To be Buzzing all around,
Though she later looked as sad as any hatchment,
With her mainsail down on deck
And her gear a perfect wreck,
For the halyards had gone "On Detachment."

A cunning limb of law
By his vessel sets much store,
And thought she would safe as any ark float;
If he'd taken in a reef,
'Twould have given some relief,
Especially when gybing round the mark-boat.

The "Ladybirds" confess
Things were rather in a mess,
For a squall had knocked her flat;
"Man overboard's" the yell,
"And the main-sheet's broke as well,
"Hi! throw the man a life-buoy, Cyril Platt."

Our season's at an end,
Our sails we must unbend,
But our failures and successes we'll remember;
And I wish to every boat,
When next we go afloat,
Good racing and no protests in November.

So now I will conclude
These verses somewhat rude,
But I'll just this statement make,
Though my hands are rather sore,
And my Sunday clothes I tore,
Yet for fun I think that sailing takes the cake.

THE LUBBER.

THE PUNJOM MINING CO., LIMITED.

The Secretary of the Punjom Mining Co., Limited, advises us that he has received the following progress report on the work carried on during the month of March from the manager at the mines:—

Mining.—This has had our best attention and again fair progress has been made. Our prospects, too, have fully maintained their encouraging character and notwithstanding the fact that we have mined and milled 1,000 tons of ore, our developments show no decrease in our reserves of ore in sight.

August Shaft, 200 ft. Level.—We are still without any changes of importance to notice here, but from appearances this point will yield a large quantity of payable ore directly. I notice that the ore at this level is much more refractory than that got in the upper levels, but as our calcining plant is now at work this is not a very serious matter. Really, I think it is a good sign to see such minerals as we have here accompanying the gold.

Intermediate Level.—The western chute of ore here continues to look most promising. It also continues to contribute largely to our output of ore this month, and must be credited in great measure with the increased yield of gold.

110ft. Level.—The preparatory work we were engaged at here at date of my last report has been completed and things are now in working order. Prospects in our western ground here, too, look very promising.

New Leader.—This has been a busy point during the month and the various drives, stopes, etc., have produced their usual quantity of ore for the mill. There seems to be little or no diminution in our ore reserves here.

Drivage for the month... 551 ft. 6 in.

Ore mined ... 1,000 tons

made up as follows:—

August Shaft ... 471 "

New Leader ... 529 "

Milling.—This was carried on during 28 days, crushing 1,000 tons, yielding of smelted gold 558 ozs. 5 dwts.

Calcining Works.—This little plant again contributed very satisfactorily to our output of gold, treating 25 tons 5 cwt. 2 qrs. of concentrates for 120 ozs. of smelted gold. This, I need not tell you, leaves a substantial balance to credit.

Cyanide Works.—Mr. Wilson, the new chemist, is still at work in the laboratory making the necessary tests, and should soon be ready to start the plant and treat the tailings, etc., in bulk.

General.—We have a good deal of work in hand which may fairly be taken under this head, and I am pleased to say good progress is being made in carrying it out. Buddles (two) for the closer concentration of our blanket sands have been made and are now working satisfactorily and others are being made to assist in this. The race from the mill to the main dam is almost completed, and the retaining banks of both the main and Kladi dams are being raised and strengthened. A large section of the race from the Jelai river to the mill has been completed and a strong gang of men are now on this work. Most of the foundation logs, miraban, are now on the ground and the water wheel has been shipped up river from Pekan.

Boats for the better handling of our firewood and other timbers have been bought and are now at work, thus assisting the carting greatly. I need not tell you that these boats come up and down the race referred to above.

Labour.—The supply of this, I am pleased to say, continues good.

Health.—This is fairly good.

Rainfall.—The total rainfall for the month is 6½ inches.

RAUB.

The mining manager's report for the four weeks ending the 9th instant runs as follows:—

Raub Hole No. 2 Shaft.—The main drive going south at 220 feet is in 140 feet from the crosscut. There is no change to report either in the ground or the lode, which is a mere formation, 2 to 3 inches wide. I do not expect to cut the main ore chute until this drive is in another 120 feet. The intermediate drive going south on the lode is in 30 feet. The lode is about 6 inches wide in the bottom and 8 inches wide in the top of the drive. Gold can be seen in the quartz, showing that we are coming into the main ore chute. This is 37 feet below the 120 feet level, and proves that the ore chute is going down. On the north side of the winze, I have opened out at the bottom of the ore chute 27 feet down, and am stopping up from here. The lode is from 6 inches to 15 inches wide and shows fair gold. The draw lift, used in sinking the shaft from 120 to 220 feet, has been taken out of the shaft, and the main steam pump placed at the 220 feet level and is working well.

Bukit Koman.—Work is going on as usual in this section, which still continues to supply the bulk of the crushing stuff to the mill. The main drives, both north and south, continue to look very well, and good progress is being made in driving both ends. In the main driving going north the lode is fully 16 feet wide, the whole of which is being sent to the mill for crushing. This face still makes a lot of water, and, as it is now under the swamp, I expect it will continue to do so. The lode in the main drive going south is not so large as it was a few weeks back, but is much better defined and shows very fair gold in breaking the stone. The ground alongside is much better, and good progress is being made in extending this level. During the month under review these drives have been extended between 60 and 70 feet, adding fully 6,000 tons of ore to the reserves. In the stopes work is not being pushed on, for there is no necessity to do so, the two drives supplying the bulk of the crushing stuff. The chamber for the new balance post at the 140 feet level is now almost finished, and the work of fixing the new 10-inch pump at the 250 feet level will be proceeded with at once. As soon as this pump is placed into position the work of extending the 250 feet crosscut will be proceeded with. I have had to stop the driving of this until the new steam pump is fixed, as I was afraid of being swamped, as the water began to come very strong from the crevices in the ground, showing that there was a heavy pressure behind. I expect to have a heavy rush of water as soon as the lode is cut.

Bukit Malacca.—The new pumping gear for this shaft was finished and started work on Monday, the 6th inst. The pump is an ordinary 8-inch draw-lift working on a 3 feet stroke, and worked by one of Messrs. Jos. Evans & Son's 12 by 24 steam cylinders. The water has risen to the level of the swamp and 9 ft. below the collar of the shaft. The pump was started at

11 a.m. and the water forked by 10 a.m. the next day, the pump making an average of 35 strokes per minutes. The work of sinking was resumed as soon as the water was out, and has proceeded steadily since. The shaft is now down 73 feet and is making a good deal of water; the pump requiring to go 23 strokes per minute to keep out the coming water. The ground continues very favourable for sinking, and, if the water does not become too heavy, it will not take us long to sink the required depth of 150 feet before opening out.

Western Lode.—There is no change to report from here; if anything, the stopes are looking better than they have done for some time. The lode still continues to extend south, and shows very good gold. It is hard to say how far it may extend in this direction, as it is all new untried ground. We have cut the lode in the air shaft sunk to ventilate the south workings. It is about 12 inches wide and shows fair gold.

Battery.—This has been kept steadily at work since the date of my last report. On the 6th inst. a rough clean up took place; 1,477 tons yielded 1,750 ozs. amalgam. Crushing was resumed same afternoon and has continued since.

WM. BIBBY.

THE YANGTZE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

The sixth ordinary general meeting of shareholders in this undertaking was held at Shanghai on the 20th April. Mr. James M. Young (Chairman) presided, and there were present Messrs. H. J. Such, B. A. Clarke, E. B. Skottowe, J. S. Fearon (Directors), A. Riva, J. F. Rodewald, F. Hincelot T. Bassett, A. C. Hunter, M. Wolff, W. Platt, E. U. Smith, Robert Shewan, J. D. Thorburn, R. M. Campbell, E. A. Probst, J. O. P. Bland, James Buchanan, C. W. Hay, J. Liddell, H. Snethlage, J. Jones, W. Pearce, F. Gove, J. R. Michael, C. Wilck, J. Tulloch, E. O. Arbuthnot, P. Brunat, J. H. MacLaren, and W. S. Jackson (the Secretary), representing in all 3,215 shares. The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The CHAIRMAN said—The minutes of the last annual ordinary general meeting held on the 8th of April last year having been printed and circulated will, as usual, be taken as read. The report and accounts to the 31st of October, 1895, have been in your hands for some time and will also with your permission be taken as read. The accounts are made up in the form as before and so clearly show the position of the Association that there is hardly anything left for me to explain. At the last annual meeting in speaking of the year 1894, I said we had had exceptionally good fortune up to that time and I am now happy to be able to state that the then unexpired risks attaching to 1894 and former years have continued to run off most satisfactorily, so that your directors can recommend the payment of a special dividend on account of a sum of \$6 per share, leaving still a substantial balance of \$142,672.41 at the credit of the account, which in all probability will be amply sufficient to cover any claim. It is as well to remember, however, that good years are apt to be followed by lean ones, and therefore it can hardly be expected that we shall always be able to declare such dividends as we are doing to-day. The result of 1895, so far as we know at present, if not quite so favourable, is still very good. There is a falling off in the amount of premia earned in 1895 as compared with the previous year of about \$6,000; but when it is explained that business was very dull all over the East for the greater part of last year, and competition very keen, as it always is when there is little doing, and that the war risks, which swelled our premia in 1894, were of very little consequence in 1895, it will be readily seen that the Association's regular business has really increased. This is also shown by the fact that the number of policies issued by the Association last year was several hundred in excess of those issued in 1894. Claims paid amount to \$83,181.25 or 21.05 per cent. of the premia earned, which although higher than the previous year, when they amounted to only \$47,266.26 or 11.77 per cent., is a very satisfactory percentage and especially so in a year like last, which is generally acknowledged to have been unremunerative

to underwriters, to judge from the reports issued by the largest home companies. Expenses amount to 10.67 per cent. of the premia as against 18.63 per cent. last year. The account shows a balance at credit of \$294,872.44, out of which your directors recommend the payment of a dividend of \$6 per share, being 10 per cent. on the paid-up capital, the appropriation of \$50,000 to reserve fund, and carrying forward \$203,144.44. Pending claims on known losses and casualties are estimated at about \$90,000. You will, I have no doubt, agree with the Board that it is most advisable to strengthen the position of the Association by continuing to add to the reserve fund as our means admit. Our business can only be expected to grow with the confidence reposed in us by the public, and it is but keeping good faith with policy holders that their security should improve as they enlarge their contributions. After making the proposed addition the fund will amount to \$400,000. Exchange investment fluctuation account has had to bear the loss of exchange arising from writing down our sterling securities from 2/8½, the rate on 31st December, 1894, to 2/11½, the rate on the same date 1895. On the other hand those and other securities having mostly advanced in market value between those dates, the net result is an increase of \$9,919.63 to the credit of the account, which stood on the 31st December last at \$72,219.93, but is tangible on paper only; it is, however, satisfactory that in the meantime the balance is on the right side. Your directors are satisfied that all the Association's assets are fully worth the amounts represented in the balance sheet. Of the \$112,519.86 due by agents, premia in course of collection, etc., about \$87,000 have since been collected. With regard to the prospects of the present year the premium earned at the head office during the first three months is about the same as during the corresponding period of last year, and therefore perhaps a little disappointing, as it was not unnatural to expect a greater expansion of trade to follow on the restoration of peace and the opening of a new session than has yet taken place. The directors are pleased to note the support the Association is now receiving from the shareholders; if that support continues to increase as it has done lately there is little doubt that the premium income will be larger this year than it was last. The Association continues to be satisfactorily represented in London and at the principal ports in the Far East. We must hope that the remarkably good fortune that has attended our operations during the past four years will continue to smile upon us, so that when we meet again next year there may be as good reasons for congratulating the shareholders as your directors think they have to-day. Before moving the adoption of the report and accounts I shall be glad to answer to the best of my ability any questions shareholders may wish to put. If there are no questions I beg to propose that the report of the directors and statement of accounts for the twelve months ended 31st December, 1895, as presented, be accepted and passed.

Mr. H. J. SUCH seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Proposed by the CHAIRMAN, and seconded by Mr. E. B. SKOTTOWE, it was resolved that a dividend of twenty per cent., being twelve dollars per share on the paid-up capital of the Association, be declared (viz.—special dividend of 10 per cent. on former years' account and a dividend of 10 per cent. on 1895 account) payable on the 21st instant at the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China or the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Shanghai, to shareholders of record on the 10th April, 1896.

Upon the motion of Mr. E. A. PROBST, seconded by Mr. R. M. CAMPBELL, it was agreed that Messrs. James M. Young, H. J. Such, B. A. Clarke, E. B. Skottowe, and J. S. Fearon, be elected directors to serve until the next ordinary general meeting of shareholders.

Mr. JOHN LIDDELL proposed, and Mr. J. D. THORBURN seconded that Mr. Augustus White be re-elected auditor to serve until the next ordinary general meeting of shareholders.

Carried unanimously.

Mr. A. C. HUNTER thought it would be very

satisfactory to most of the shareholders if the directors could see their way to pay a dividend half yearly. It might appear unsafe to anticipate any results of the working account, but it would be seen that a large and steady income was derived from investments, which might be utilised for the interim dividend.

The CHAIRMAN said the directors had power under the articles of association to pay an interim dividend, but at the same time it would probably result in the dividend being somewhat less. The directors, however, would carefully consider the matter.

Mr. R. M. CAMPBELL said that last year he had the pleasure of expressing on behalf of the shareholders their appreciation of the very favourable report laid before them and of thanking the directors and management for the way in which they had conducted the business. This year there was even grater reason for congratulation, and he therefore begged to propose that the directors be and are hereby authorised to pay to the employees of the Company of over three years' service a bonus on their salaries for the past year of 20 per cent. and to employees of less than three years' a bonus on their salaries for the past year of 10 per cent. The whole sum involved in the resolution would amount to not more than £15,350.

Mr. E. A. PROBST seconded.

The CHAIRMAN said the directors accepted the resolution with much pleasure, and were very glad that it came from a shareholder. The staff thoroughly deserved the recognition the shareholders proposed to make. (Applause).

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. W. S. JACKSON, the Secretary, on behalf of the staff, thanked the shareholders for the unanimous way in which they had passed the resolution. It was very satisfactory to the staff to know the shareholders had so much confidence in them, and he hoped they would have reason to continue that confidence. (Applause).

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.—N. C. Daily News.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

THE DEFENCE OF THE COLONY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Dear Sir,—I was very pleased to see that in your leading article of Tuesday you called attention to the great need of more torpedo boats for the defence of Hongkong. Half a dozen good torpedo boats with thoroughly experienced men to handle them would be an immense addition to the effective strength of Great Britain in the Pacific, much more so than another ironclad; for our ships, naval and mercantile, must have a port of refuge and a coaling and refitting station. They would have the advantage of costing much less, which ought to help the matter, for there is no doubt that the cost is a thing much considered by the authorities responsible, forgetting that ten times the cost would be cheap for what it is to insure. The attack of any hostile fleet which could not enter the harbour or land troops on the island is not much to be feared so long as the island is well provisioned to stand a siege and has an ample supply of water. The defence and safeguarding of the reservoirs is an important matter. All this should be attended to before the next dry season, also the communications by tramway.

As regards raising the number of the permanent garrison to 10,000 men, I fear the cost will again be the impediment to its being given effect to, so far as the home authorities are concerned. Regarding this I have a suggestion to make.

There is an immense and growing trade between India and China and Japan. This trade has sprung up and grown up under the sheltering wing of the British power. Why should the British taxpayer be called upon to pay not only the whole cost of opening up China and Japan to the trade of all nations, but also to pay for the protection of a trade which is choking the trade of Lancashire, viz., the trade in Bombay yarns, and also another

immense trade in the hands of Indian merchants and enriching only them, viz., the opium trade? Let India contribute her share to the cost of maintaining the garrisons of Singapore and Hongkong and the China Squadron, or, better still, hand over the administration and defence of these places and of Chusan to the Indian Government entirely; it would be only justice to the British taxpayer and the administration of them would be better managed.

OLD NAVAL RESERVE MAN.
Hongkong 23rd April, 1896.

CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES AND POLITICAL INFLUENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—Considering the active part the Catholic missionaries are taking in politics all over the world, but particularly in the Far East, where, as elsewhere, their influence is used for the spread and strengthening of the power of France to the detriment of Great Britain and her colonies, don't you think it high time the Pope was informed that he had better put a check on the political activity of his agents. It is an established maxim in law that the principal is responsible for the acts of his agents and the gentleman at Rome might well be reminded that if he does not wish to be shorn of what little temporal power he has left he had better bestir himself to stop the Catholic missionaries from meddling in politics.—Yours truly,

AGNOSTIC.

Hongkong, 23rd April, 1896.

THE APPOINTMENT TO THE PEKING LEGATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Sir,—Having read with interest Mr. Henry Norman's remarks as to "How British Diplomats are Appointed" it has occurred to me, though agreeing with most of his ideas, but disagreeing with him about the appointment at Peking, that perhaps he may be retained on behalf of some unknown celebrity whose claims have been overlooked in the filling of this post. If so, who is it?

The British mercantile community in China do not seem to hold the same views in the matter as Mr. Henry Norman, for we hear of Mr. Campbell, their spokesman in Shanghai, declaring how delighted they were to find that the man appointed had no previous connection with Peking and that he could neither speak Chinese nor was likely to feel a great desire to study that language.

QUERY.

Hongkong, 23rd April, 1896.

ALTRUISM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Pray allow me a small space in your valuable paper to make the following suggestions:—That every Britisher landing in the colony of Hongkong be charged a capitation tax of \$100, the proceeds to go towards the formation of a pension fund for Portuguese and others in British Government employ, and to provide Germans and other aliens with a free house, a cook, boy, and perhaps an amah or two, upon landing on our glorious British soil. For where the British flag flies is freedom for all—except Britishers—and everybody is at liberty to help himself to anything he pleases and to do as he likes. In time of war I would suggest an extra regiment to guard the interests of our German friends, so that each might be furnished with a warrior or two to guard his property and his sacred person. Good old British Lion! What a home of refuge is his lair for all the beasts of the forest, yet how little they thank him for his magnanimity.—Yours truly,

EGOIST.

Canton, 23rd April, 1896.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS"

Sir,—Referring to the letter which appeared in your issue of yesterday's date, it is all humbug to give either the Germans or others privileges and then carp at them for taking full advantage of such privileges. It is very true that they might easily show a little more

gratitude than they do for the privileges they enjoy, here and elsewhere, to the nation without which they would be in—Germany; but it is our boast that we give everybody a fair field and no favour and if "Humbug" was as fond of reading the newspapers as of writing to them he would have seen that in type not so very long ago.—Yours faithfully,

ANTI-HUMBUG.

Hongkong, 23rd April, 1896.

TIENTSIN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Tientsin, 13th April.

Tientsin has, since the exit of Li Hung-chang from the metropolitan vice-regality, become much less of a political centre. We are no longer the spot in the stream from which the current and back eddies of high Chinese policy or no policy can be viewed, but have fallen into the minor prominence of a first class outport and a booming trade centre. We still, of course, get the echoes of the diplomatic world in Peking and are as quick as ever in intercepting the eavesdroppings of the Yamen, but we are no longer the *fons et origo* of novelty in the world of politics, syndicates, merchant adventures, and fads. Peking is now the happy hunting ground of all who come North to regenerate China and pick up a living for themselves in the process.

Our new Viceroy keeps strictly to the duties of his office, is difficult of access to cranks and to the curious, and eschews as far as he can those greater questions of foreign policy which were the chief business of his predecessor. I may mention, though, that he is alive to the essential needs of his satrapy, and that he recently memorialized the throne for the modest sum of thirty millions of taels (Tls. 30,000,000) wherewith to purchase a new navy and reorganize northern defence. I need not add that His Excellency has not got the money and is not likely to. He is, however, keeping all his predecessor's educational experiments in full swing, and is especially interested in the naval and military academies. That the Chinese really contemplate another navy is seen by the fact that two training ships are now being fitted up for cadets, and that new officers are being engaged in England for their instruction.

Hongkong may be interested to know that Sheng Taotai's great educational experiment is proceeding apace. Thanks to Mr. C. D. Tenney, the able chief, and to Sheng's wisdom and courage in giving him full power, the Tientsin University is doing well and is passing through a more than vigorous infancy. Mr. Tenney recruited the best part of his staff and most of the pupils in his Upper School in Hongkong last autumn. It is supposed that this was not quite palatable to Sheng, and that now when the time has come for another big admission the latter wants his co-provincials, the Chekiangese, to have a good show.

Sheng, I may say *en passant*, is as firmly in the saddle as ever. Feline tenacity of life is not comparable to his: he has been threatened with final extinction at least a dozen times during the past two years, but has triumphantly ridden out the censorial storms. Say what they like about him, he is a long-headed astute fellow.

There is a great boom in Tientsin local trade, though just at the moment circumstances do not seem to justify it. New hongs and new comers are the order of the day, so much so that two additional doctors (one French, the other German) have settled among us. The old established firms do not contemplate a great year this season. Very little sycee went up to the plateau during the winter, and this means that little produce will come down. Much of the Tientsin wool comes from those parts of Kansuh and Koko-nor where the Mahomedan rebellion was raging last year, and which is probably again raging now. Political disturbance and its consequent anarchy have paralysed trade in those districts.

A curious new trade is being established in Tientsin by an enterprising American firm, viz., the viscera of slaughtered sheep and pigs. The unsavoury entrails are packed and sent off to the States as the raw material for the gut and cognate manufactures.

Sir Robert Hart's suggestions for a National

Post Office, repeated constantly during the last twelve years, have at last met with a practical issue. The high Chinese authorities have for some time been making pertinent enquiries as to present outlay and prospective profit and have now intimated their wish to establish a Post Office under the I.G.'s auspices. This will be even a more Herculean task than his (hitherto) life's work. Sir Robert will of course make indefinite use of his existing staff in such a departure. This alone will make it a welcome innovation, for the shocking state of the tael and the stagnation in promotion, leave taking, &c., have reduced the once lauded Customs service to a very second rate affair in the way of livelihood.

Sir Robert is, by the way, expected here shortly *en route* for a trip among the outports. If I mistake not, this is his first absence from the capital in ten years.

Tientsin also loses its Commissioner this week, as Mr. Detring leaves for a two years' run home. The local Chamber of Commerce honoured him and his family by a *conversazione* last week in Gordon Hall; the whole community was present. During his seventeen years of office the Haikwan revenue has risen from Tls. 317,000 to Tls. 752,000. As Mr. Detring had also occupied a prominent position in our municipal and sporting life, the community rose as one man to express its appreciation.

He is replaced at the receipt of customs by Mr. F. Aglen, a popular gentleman, whose rise in the service has been phenomenal. Mr. Aglen was here two years ago as a 3A Assistant and now reappears as Deputy Commissioner. Mr. Aglen has done yeoman's work as confidential secretary to his chief during the last two years.

The German concession is an accomplished fact, thanks to Baron von Seckendorff, who now also leaves us on furlough. It extends almost right on for a mile from the south end of the British concession, and covers an area of 1,034 mow (about 160 acres). The American Consular authorities have withdrawn their sleeping claim on the northern section of the new settlement. Chinese are to be admitted as residents, but will probably be confined to one part of the concession. The Chinese officials were eager in this claim, as they greatly appreciated the protection which the French settlement afforded last year in war time. The chief difficulty they create is in the way of sanitation; they are not allowed to reside in the British concession both on this ground and on the more effective one of want of space. We hope to memorialize the incoming Minister on this latter subject this week.

The Pei-ho is exhibiting exceptionally bad eccentricities this spring: it has silted up and steamers only come as far as Tong-ku.

HONGKONG.

Unfortunately the plague shows no signs of decreasing, but maintains an average of about ten cases a day. Up to yesterday the total number for the year was 621. The stranding of the steamer *Eze* near Hongkong was the subject of an inquiry at the Marine Court on the 22nd inst., and the Court found that the master had not navigated the vessel with due care, but his certificate was not dealt with. On Thursday the Sanitary Board met, and on Saturday His Excellency the Governor distributed the prizes to the successful scholars attending the Victoria English Schools. On Saturday evening a smoking concert was held at the Victoria Recreation Club and during a break in the entertainment Mr. E. D. Sanders, the honorary secretary of the club, was presented with a gold watch by the Colonial Secretary on behalf of the members. On Monday afternoon His Excellency the Governor delivered a most interesting lecture at the Odd Volumes Society's room on "Irish wit and humour and American and other comparisons therewith."

There were 2,023 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 181 were Europeans. Rules framed under the recently passed Suitors' Funds Ordinance are published in Saturday's *Gazette*.

There were seven cases of plague on the 22nd, eleven on the 23rd, sixteen on the 24th, fifteen on the 25th, two on the 26th, and ten on the 27th.

clad in silks, and wore a gold watch; he had also on his person, secured round his waist under his coat, six loaded revolvers and is said to have attempted to draw one when captured. It is reported that a considerable reward was offered for his arrest in connection with some occurrences at Fatshan and he was conveyed there for trial.

At the Police Court on the 24th April before Commander W. C. H. Hastings, Cheon Asow was charged with commencing a building without submitting plans to the Director of Public Works. The defendant owns No. 9, Tai Wo Street, and the offence was in respect of alterations made to the roof of the house. A fine of \$50 was imposed.

At three o'clock on the morning of the 24th April a fire broke out in the cockloft of a joss paper shop at 15, Cochrane Street. The Fire Brigade attended and extinguished the flames in a very short time, but not before the contents of the shop had been destroyed. The roof was also slightly burnt. The premises were insured with Messrs. Bradley and Co. for \$1,500.

The community will learn with satisfaction that the inconvenient hour at which the French mail has recently been leaving is to be altered. The Acting Agent informs us that "the departure of the French mail steamers from Hongkong for Europe in future, commencing by the steamer *Yarra*, leaving this on the 29th inst, will be at noon instead of at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays."

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Nethersole Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:—

Choi Tse Mei	\$25
Hon. W. Meigh Goodman	15
E. Pabaney	10
W. Powell	10
Tata and Co.	10
Wong Shing	10

The schooner *Emeralda*, Captain Harrison, which arrived here on the 9th March after a most adventurous voyage from the Marianna Islands, in the course of which she was dismantled and otherwise damaged in a typhoon, has now been thoroughly overhauled and repaired by the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co. to Lloyd's requirements and has been re-rigged and supplied with a new suit of sails by Messrs. Blackhead and Co. She left for Guam on the 28th April.

Shortly after ten o'clock on Monday morning a fire broke out in the cockloft of the third floor of 238, Hollywood Road. The two top floors are used as a Chinese club, the first floor is a fortune teller's shop, and the ground floor is used for storing coffins. The Fire Brigade, under Mr. Lethbridge and Deputy Superintendent Corcoran, turned out promptly and after close upon an hour's work extinguished the flames. The two top floors were burnt out and the top floor of each adjoining house, 236 and 240, was slightly damaged by fire and water. No insurance had been effected.

On Wednesday afternoon Inspector Bremner, who has retired on a pension from the police force, was presented with a massive gold chain by the members of the force. The presentation was made by Deputy Superintendent Corcoran, who alluded to Mr. Bremner's good qualities and wished him many peaceful years of retirement. Mrs. Bremner was also presented with a handsome tea service, and the children, too, came in for appropriate presents. Mr. Bremner feelingly replied and returned thanks to the whole force for the great kindness they had shown to him and his wife and family.

What seems to be an arrest of some importance was made recently at Canton near the Fatshan passenger boats landing stages. The man arrested had been shadowed for some time previous, but as he was known to be well armed a favourable opportunity was awaited before pouncing on him, in case he should shoot some of his assailants and effect his escape. The place of capture was well selected, as a guard-house was close at hand—in fact there are four or five guard-houses in the neighbourhood, which has a reputation for robbery and violence—and the assistance of the soldiers stationed there was availed of in securing the prisoner. He is a man of about twenty-five years of age, was

Mr. E. C. Ellis, solicitor, late of Mr. V. H. Deacon's office, has accepted an engagement with the firm of Messrs. Drew and Napier, of Singapore, and left here on the 23rd April by the P. & O. steamer *Peshawur*, carrying with him the good wishes of many friends.

The town clock is being cleaned and as it is twenty years since it received such an honour the Public Works Committee cannot be accused of undue precipitancy in the matter. The work of cleaning will probably take three or four weeks, so meanwhile if you want to know the time you must, in the words of the Tivoli poet, ask a policeman.

About nine o'clock on the morning of the 26th inst. a fire was discovered in the picker room at the works of the Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Limited. The Fire Brigade turned out, but happily the fire was soon got under and it is not thought that the damage is very great. The fire was confined to a quantity of hemp which lately arrived at the works.

The following donations to the Home for the Aged and Infirm are acknowledged:—

Already acknowledged	\$1,850
Doctor Hartigan	50
Mr. A. G. Botelho	50
Toe Yet, San Francisco	200
A Friend	50
Capt. O'Keef	50
Mr. W. Lysaught	50

For some time past the Police have been informed of many cases of blackmail which have been levied by scavengers in the whitewash brigade, but until Monday morning the culprits succeeded in escaping arrest, as the victimised masters would not come forward to prosecute. The usual method has been for the offenders to pose as "head men" and to promise tenants not to remove cocklofts on payment of \$10. In many instances the money has been paid and the cocklofts have consequently escaped destruction. On Monday morning this system of extortion received a check. The brigade went to clean out a crockery ware shop at 53, Praya Central. Two of the men—Chinese of course—called the master aside and told him that they had orders to pull down the cockloft, but for \$10 they would arrange matters with the officials and thus prevent the destruction of the cockloft. The master said he could not afford \$10. Fortunately he went to the Police Station and explained the circumstances to Inspectors Quincey and Holt. The officers saw the position at once and determined to make an arrest. They did not inform the master of their intention, but simply told him to pay \$3, which he said he could afford. A detective was then hastily dispatched to the shop and he arrived there in time to see the two men, who had at that time removed five beams of the cockloft, receive the money from the master. Of course they were immediately arrested and charged with obtaining money by means of a menace. They were afterwards taken before Commander W. C. H. Hastings, who sent each of them to gaol for six months with hard labour. Perhaps in future proper supervision will be exercised over the doings of the whitewash brigade.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The steamer *Sui Sang*, which arrived at Singapore on the 18th April from Hongkong, had two smallpox cases on board and was placed in quarantine.

The Nanking Government-owned steamers *Cass*, *Smith*, and *Sin Fukien* will be put on the line between Shanghai and Formosa, and a foreign firm at Shanghai has been appointed as agents.—*Mercury*.

Our Peking native correspondent sends us the names of sixteen of the scholars belonging to the Tungwên College in that city who are soon to be sent to Europe to complete their studies. They have been chosen, four from each class of the College, namely, English, French, German, and Russian, and they will go to the capitals of these four countries to study three or four years. The students belong to Chinese, Manchu, and Mongol families of good standing, and besides their allowances for board, lodging, and tuition will be given a monthly allowance of Tls. 50 for incidentals.—*N. C. Daily News*.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO GREAT BRITAIN.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Canton and Macao	7,446,099	7,813,790
Amoy	781,523	772,692
Foochow	11,175,408	14,357,248
Shanghai and Hankow	21,111,512	21,591,499
	40,514,542	44,535,229

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Amoy	15,601,980	19,447,739
Foochow	6,066,651	4,626,555
Shanghai	29,029,320	25,796,160
	50,697,951	49,870,454

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	27,240,863	22,555,223

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1895-96	1894-95
	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	29,813,485	28,777,516
Kobe	18,732,080	16,879,951
	48,545,565	45,657,467

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 23rd April.—(From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular.)—London advices to 21st current quote Blue Elephants 10/6, and market quiet. Raw Silk.—The position here is unchanged; a small business only is passing from day to day, but apparently just sufficient to keep prices firm. Holders are also encouraged by the changeable and inclement weather of the past week and the anticipations of damage to the worms in the earlier districts. The settlements comprise about 700 bales White Silks, 50 Yellow and 300 Wild. Arrivals from 16th to 22nd are 400 bales White and 41 piculs Yellow Silk. 1,470 bales Wild Silks appear in the Customs Returns this week also; most of these are under contract and have gone, or are now going, forward. Reels and Filatures.—Only 50 bales are reported settled. Waste Silk.—No business doing. Pongees.—Only small contracts are reported at about last quoted prices.

Purchases include:—Tsattees.—Mountain 8 at Tls. 380, Gold Elephant at Tls. 372, Gold Lion at Tls. 317, Large Elephant 4 at Tls. 350, Gold Killing at Tls. 318, Dollar S.S.S. at 287, Taysan.—Green Kahing Gold Goose 2 at Tls. 332, Green Almond Flower 1 at Tls. 315, Chincums.—Tiger Chop Tinghow at Tls. 310, Poach Tree 1 at Tls. 303, Yellow Silk.—Mienchow at Tls. 240, Meeyang at Tls. 227, Filature.—Market Chop Laining at Tls. 365 to Tls. 375, Re-reel.—Worm and Leap Chop 2 at Tls. 380, Wild Silk.—Tussah Raw at Tls. 165 to Tls. 185.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1895-96	1894-95
	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	51,813	48,229
Canton	16,304	14,014
Yokohama	20,957	20,258
	89,074	83,401

CANTHON.

HONGKONG, 23rd April.—The market continues almost in the same position as last reported. Quotations for Formosa are \$61.00 to \$63.50. During the past week sales have been 250 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 23rd April.—The market continues weak and there has been a further decline in prices. Following are the quotations:—Shekloong, No. 1, White...\$7.15 to 7.17 per pol. do. " 2, White... 6.53 to 6.56 " Shekloong, No. 1, Brown... 4.52 to 4.54 " do. " 2, Brown... 4.34 to 4.37 " Swatow, No. 1, White... 7.05 to 7.08 " do. " 2, White... 6.42 to 6.44 " do. " 1, Brown... 4.40 to 4.43 " Swatow, No. 2, Brown... 4.27 to 4.30 " Foochow Sugar Candy...10.08 to 10.12 " Shekloong " " 9.52 to 9.55 "

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN
TO AMERICA.

	1895-96 bales.	1894-95 bales.
Canton	9,280	8,453
Shanghai	9,786	8,885
Yokohama	27,907	24,848
	46,923	42,186

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

The steamer *Priam*, Hongkong to London, 20th April, took:—750 bales Hemp, 50 bales Canes, 1 case Silk, 27 cases Cigars, 65 cases Pearl Shells, 46 cases Chinaware, 3 cases Feathers, 3 cases Ginger, 835 packages Fire Crackers, and 6 packages Sundries; for London option Manchester:—245 bales Waste Silk; for Liverpool:—8 packages Effects; for Brussels:—3 packages Effects.

The steamship *Turbo*, Hongkong to London, 21st April, took:—400 cases Camphor, for Havre:—12 cases Human Hair, 20 cases Chinaware, 47 bales Canes, 50 cases Bristles, 113 bales Split Bamboos, and 1,220 rolls Mats and Matting.

The P. & O. steamer *Shanghai*, Hongkong to London, 21st April, took:—2,750 bales Hemp, 13 cases Cigars, 1 case Live Orchids, 12 bales Duck Feathers, 175 bales Waste Silk, 200 packages Tea, 30 boxes Tea (630 lbs. Congou), 44 cases Blackwoodware, 45 rolls Matting, 13 cases Curios, 20 cases Vermilion, 18 bales Rattan, and 17 packages Sundries; for New York:—23 packages Sundries.

The P. & O. steamer *Peshawur*, Hongkong to London, 23rd April, took:—9 cases Silk Piece Goods, 50 bales Waste Silk, 10 cases Vermilion, and 2 packages Sundries; for France:—478 bales Raw Silk, 70 bales Pierced Cocoons, and 50 bales Waste Silk; for Milan:—30 bales Raw Silk.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 28th April.—Bengal.—There has been a further decline in rates, New Patna receding to \$716½, Old Patna to \$752½, New Benares to \$710, and Old Benares to \$770.

Malwa.—The market continues unchanged, the following being the current figures:—

New	\$750 with allance of 0 to 4½ cts.
Old (2/3 yrs.)	\$760 " 4 to 1 "
" (4/6 yrs.)	\$770 " 0 to 1 "
Older	\$780 " 0 to 1 "

Persian.—Transactions have been very meagre and rates have weakened, Oily closing at \$600 to \$630 and Paper-wrapped at \$620 to \$665 according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	1,200 chests
Old Patna	690 "
New Benares	380 "
Old Benares	70 "
Malwa	220 "
Persian	1,440 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1896.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
April 23	727½	755	717½	790	750/760	770/780
April 24	720	752½	717	790	750/760	770/780
April 25	715	742½	705	765	750/760	770/780
April 26	715	742½	705	765	750/760	770/780
April 27	715	745	705	765	750/760	770/780
April 28	716½	752½	710	770	750/760	770/780

RICE.

HONGKONG, 28th April.—Arrivals have been small and a further advance in prices has to be reported. Closing quotations are:—

	per picul.
Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.32 to 2.35
" Round, good quality	2.60 to 2.62
" Long	2.72 to 2.75
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.54 to 2.56
" Garden, " No. 1	2.82 to 2.84
" White	3.15 to 3.17
" Fine Cargo	3.30 to 3.33

COALS.

HONGKONG, 28th April.—There is no change to report. Sales of 5,000 tons Japan at \$4½ to \$5 are reported. Quotations are:—

Cardiff	\$12.00 to — ex ship, nominal.
Australian	7.00 to 7.25 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Lump	\$5.60 to 5.75 ex ship, nominal.
Milke Small	4.85 to — ex ship, do
Moji Lump	4.00 to 5.50 ex ship, nominal.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 28th April.—Amongst the sales reported are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—*Bombay Yarn*.—30 bales No. 8 at \$66, 390 bales No. 10 at \$72 to \$75, 425 bales No. 12 at \$71.50 to \$77.50, 150 bales No. 16 at \$87 to \$90, 500 bales No. 20 at \$89.50 to \$94. *Grey Shirtings*.—750 pieces 10 lbs. Shoemaker at \$3.45. *White Shirtings*.—450 pieces Gold Tiger at \$5.55, 1,000 pieces Gold Elephant at \$3.45, 250 pieces Flower at \$4.55. *Victoria Lawns*.—5,000 pieces at \$0.62. *Drills*.—150 pieces 14 lbs. Old Man and Tiger at \$3.45. *Camlets*.—100 pieces 8 Persons assorted at \$17.75. *Metals*.—Tin.—300 slabs Malacca at \$35.40, 300 slabs Foongchai at \$33, 100 slabs Siam at \$32.80.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20	\$64.00 to \$92.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24	104.00 to 108.00
" 22 to 24	109.00 to 112.00
" 28 to 32	114.00 to 119.00
" 38 to 42	124.00 to 131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6lbs.	1.40 to 1.55
7lbs.	1.85 to 2.05
8.4 lbs.	2.20 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs.	3.20 to 4.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.30 to 2.50
58 to 60 "	2.65 to 3.25
64 to 66 "	3.30 to 3.75
Fine	4.05 to 6.90
Book-folds.	3.20 to 5.40
Victoria Lawns—12 yards ...	0.60 to 1.25
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.) Ord'y.	1.40 to 1.55
7lbs. (32 ") ..	1.80 to 2.95
6lbs. (32 ") Mers.	1.60 to 1.75
7lbs. (32 ") ..	2.15 to 2.40
8 to 8½lbs. (36 in.)	2.35 to 3.05
Drills, English—40 yds. 13½ to 14lbs.	3.20 to 4.30

FANCY COTTONS

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 5lbs.	1.30 to 3.50
Brocades—Dyed	3.75 to 4.50
Damasks	0.12 to 0.15
Chintzes—Assorted	3.07 to 0.10
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.21 to 0.28
Velveteens—18 in.	0.16 to 0.20
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.40 to 0.85

WOOLLENS

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chops.	0.60 to 0.95
German	1.00 to 1.15
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths.	1.25 to 3.50
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.90 to 8.00
Assorted	7.00 to 8.10
Camlets—Assorted	13.00 to 27.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted }	10.00 to 18.00
Orleans—Plain	3.00 to 3.60
Blankets—8 to 12lbs.	4.20 to 8.40

METALS

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	3.05 to —
Square, Flat Round Bar ...	3.00 to 3.05
Swedish Bar	4.75 to 4.80
Small Round Rod	3.55 to —
Hoop	4.50 to —
Old Wire Rope	3.00 to —
Lead, Australian	6.65 to —
Yellow M'tal—Muntz, 14/28 oz.	25.25 to —
Elliot's, 16/28 oz.	25.00 to —
Japan Copper, Slabs	24.75 to —
Tin	35.50 to 35.75

SUNDRIES

	per picul
Quicksilver	109.75 to —
Window Glass	3.80 to —
Kerosene Oil	2.24 to —

SHANGHAI, 23rd April.—(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade report.)—The run continues to be chiefly on cargo "to arrive" the latter end of the summer, American goods still enjoying the preference. In these makes an extensive business has gone through,

the prices looking very tempting as compared with those ruling in Manchester, and it is anticipated that sufficient has been already ordered to supply the demand for the rest of this season. During the last interval alone fully 20,000 bales of Drills and Sheetings must have been settled, the latter forming about two-thirds of the total, at prices that lay down here nearly 8 per cent. under those ruling at the opening of the season, while English goods can be replaced only at a very trifling difference in most cases. Fortunately the natives are still interested in keeping up prices, which has enabled Importers to clear out their stocks on hand generally at fairly satisfactory rates. Manchester makes are by no means neglected, as the holders of available supplies of suitable cloths and chops have found this week, and, all things considered, prices are being fairly well maintained, although this is hardly borne out by the results of the sales. The news from the outside markets is certainly better, even Hankow showing much more vitality, and no doubt business would be much brisker but for the stringency in the money market at present. The daily rate of interest with the Natives is abnormally high, and the scarcity of copper cash in the country is greatly restricting the purchasing powers of the masses. A fairly good demand continues for Indian Cotton Yarn from all the outside markets, a large business being done this week again at steady prices on the whole. The only transactions in Japanese Spinnings have been through the Cantonese importers.

Metals.—(From Mr. Alex. Biefield's report.)—24th April:—There is practically no change to report, everything remaining at a standstill. Sales are few and far between, but dealers seem more hopeful and, taken all round, prospects seem brightening. Lead.—50 tons Australian have been sold at Tls. 5.20. Iron.—Both old and new remain quiet and neglected, deliveries seem inclined to improve, but no trade is reported in Nailrods, and the market on this side for most lines of both New and Scrap Metals has fallen in sympathy with the North. 100 casks Iron Wire 9/25 have been done at Tls. 4.60, spot, but the market is by no means strong, and prices here do not tally with home ideas. The natives who contracted for Nickel at 57 to 60 Taels are now selling at a loss of some 7 or 8 Taels per picul, and 150 cases have been booked at Tls. 50 per picul this week.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 28th April.—With a better feeling in Shanghai, our market has ruled stronger and rates firmer. Business has been fairly brisk and some important transactions have taken place. Market closes steady generally.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands at 186 and 185 per cent. prem. in fair lots for cash, and some small sales have been effected at 193 per cent. prem. for July delivery. Nationals and Bank of China are neglected at quotation, and we have no business to report.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders continue to change hands and are somewhat in favour at \$80. Unions have again found buyers at \$212½. North Chinas and Yangtzes have ruled weaker with sellers from Shanghai at Tls. 225 and \$155 respectively. Cantons remain on offer at \$200 without finding buyers. Straits have continued weak, sellers at \$29 ruling the market. The North China has issued its report, which recommends a dividend of 10 per cent., a bonus of 10 per cent. to contributors and the transfer of some Tls. 23,000 from investment fluctuation account to working account.

FIRE INSURANCES have gradually recovered the weakness reported in our last, and both Hongkongs and Chinas have been in steady demand, resulting in sales at \$325, \$327½, \$330, \$332½, \$335, and \$337½ for the former, and at \$92, \$93, and \$94 for the latter. Both stocks close steady at quotations.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton, and Macao have changed hands at \$33½ and \$33¼, closing with buyers at latter and sellers at former rate. Indo-Chinas have slightly improved with little or no business to \$67 sellers and \$66 buyers. Douglasses have further improved their position with sales at \$54, \$54½, and \$55, closing with sellers at the last rate. China Manilas continue steady with sales at \$68. China Mutuals continue on offer in small lots at quotations without business.

REFINERIES.—Both China Sugars and Luzons continue weak and neglected at quotations, and we have no business to report.

MINING.—Punjoms have ruled fairly steady with a small business at \$13 to \$14, market closing with small sellers at latter rate. Balmorals appear for the present to be out of the market and the quotation of \$2 must be taken as more or less nominal. Jelebus have ruled rather weaker with sellers at \$3.60 and no buyers. Raubs continue in favour with sales at \$5½, and Olivers Freehold have changed hands at \$6 and \$3. Charbonnages continue without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa with further reports of good earnings have ruled steady to strong. A few shares offering in the early part of the week at 181 per cent. prem. were soon taken off the market and the demand continuing without finding sellers the rate gradually rose to 183, after small sales at 182 and 182½, at which last rate market closes steady. Kowloon Wharves continue to change ownership at \$47, at which shares are still obtainable. Wanchais have found buyers in small lots at quotation.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands after further sales at \$72 changed hands in large lots at \$71½, market closing steady with buyers. Hotels have found small buyers at \$26, Humphreys Estate at \$9½, and West Points at \$18.

MISCELLANEOUS.—The following sales are reported:—Watsons at \$12.75 and \$13, Electrics at \$7.25 and \$7, Ropes at \$120 and \$118, Fenwicks at \$25½ and \$26, Ices at \$107 and \$108, and Tramways at \$95 and \$96. The closing tone of the market is steady.

Closing quotations are as follow:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[\$356.25, sales]
Hongkong & Shanghai...	\$125	185 p. ct. prem. =
China & Japan, prf.	25	nominal
Do. ordinary...	£1 10s.	nominal
Do. deferred...	£1	£2, buyers
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$31, sales & sellers
Founders Shares...	£1	\$115, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	15s.	\$9
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$30	\$5½, sales & buyers
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$5, ex div.
Carmichael & Co.	\$20	\$3
China Sugar	\$100	\$119
Dakin, Cruick's & Co.	\$5	\$1
Dairy Farm Co.	\$10	\$5
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$25½, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$15½
H. & China Bakery	\$50	\$36
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$100, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$8	\$7, sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$93, buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$26, sales & buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$108, sales
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$47, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$118, sales
H. & W. Dock	\$125	183 p. ct. prem. =
Insurances—		[\$353.75, s. & b.]
Canton	\$50	\$200, sellers
China Fire	\$50	\$94, buyers
China Traders'	\$25	\$80, sales & sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$337½, s. & sellers
North-China	£25	Tls. 220
Straits	\$20	\$28½
Union	\$25	\$212½, sales & buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$152½, ex div.
Land and Building—		
H. Land Investment...	\$50	\$71½, sales & buyers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$9.50, sales
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$19½, sellers
West Point Building	\$40	\$18, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$66, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 500	\$72½, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$2.60, sales
New Balmoral	\$3	\$2, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$6, sales
Do. B.	\$2½	\$3, sales
Punjom	\$4	\$14
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$3, buyers
Raubs	13s. 10d.	\$5.75, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila ...	\$50	\$68, buyers
China Mutual Ord...	25	£3.1.6, sellers
Do. Preference...	£10	£8 10, sellers
Douglas S. S. Co.	\$50	\$55, sales
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$33½, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$66, sales & buyers
Wanchai Warehouse Co.	\$37½	\$39, sales & buyers
Watson & Co., A. S. ...	\$10	\$13, sales & buyers

CHATER & VERNON, Share Brokers

SHANGHAI, 24th April.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s report.)—Business has not been so brisk during the week as it has been for some time. In most stocks there is a disposition to sell. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—The only transactions reported is a small sale at 190 per cent premium. The market is weak with sellers at lower rates. The Hongkong quotation is 188 per cent premium. National Bank of China.—Shares are wanted at \$31. Bank of China and Japan.—Deferred shares are wanted. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares are offering at Tls. 50. A sale to Hongkong at \$67 was reported. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat shares are quoted \$33.50, in Hongkong. Douglas Steamship shares were placed locally at \$52, and to Hongkong at \$53, and are wanted, but holders ask \$54. Docks.—Shares in S. C. Farnham & Co. have been placed at Tls. 192½ to Tls. 195 for cash and Tls. 190 for July delivery. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares are wanted in Hongkong at 181 per cent. premium. Marine Insurance.—North Chinas were sold at Tls. 225. Unions to Hongkong at \$210, and Straits at \$31 for 31st July, and \$31/31½ for 30th September. China Traders' shares are wanted at \$79, but are held for \$80. Cantons are offering at \$200. Fire Insurance.—Business has been confined to a sale of Hongkongs to Hongkong at \$325, and sales of Chinas at \$92 and \$90.50. Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares changed hands at Tls. 125 cash and Tls. 129 for 30th June. Mining.—Punjom Mining shares were sold at \$14½. Tugs.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares are offering at Tls. 200. Taku Tug and Lighter shares were placed at T. Tls. 115. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were placed at Tls. 43½ and Tls. 43. Both China and Luzon Sugar Refining shares are offering, but there are no buyers at the moment. Lands.—Hongkong Land Investment shares were sold at \$71. There is no change to report in Shanghai Land Investment shares. Factories.—There has been a strong demand for Major Brothers shares, and sales have been made at Tls. 45 and Tls. 45½ for cash, Tls. 45½ for April, and Tls. 46 for May. The market is quiet at the close, with sellers. Ewo Cotton shares are offering at Tls. 90 for the fully paid up shares. The final call was due on the 23rd. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 105 cash, Tls. 110 for 15th May, and Tls. 115 for 30th June. The market for Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares opened at Tls. 390 to Tls. 405 for cash. News that the concession to work the petroleum had been granted caused a strong demand, and shares advanced day by day from Tls. 475 to Tls. 730 for cash, and Tls. 550 to Tls. 775 for May delivery. The half of a Founders' share was sold at Tls. 5,000. Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd. shares have been sold at Tls. 70 cum dividend. Hall & Holtz shares were sold at \$34. Hongkong Electric shares were placed to Hongkong at \$7. Loans.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Debentures were sold at Tls. 110, and Shanghai Land Investment Debentures of 1894 were also placed at Tls. 110, plus the accrued interest in both cases. Shanghai Waterworks 6 per cent. Debentures are wanted at Tls. 110, but are held for Tls. 112½.

Quotations are:—

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. —\$362½.
National Bank of China, Ltd.—\$31.
National Bank of China, Ltd., Founders.—\$115.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, pref. shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, ordinary shares.—Nominal.
Bank of China, Japan, and The Straits, Limited, deferred shares.—£2.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 50.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. pref. shares.—Tls. 52½.
China-Mutual Steam Nav. Co. ord. shares.—Tls. 23 1s. 6d.
Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co. —\$32½.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.—\$52.
Boyd & Co., Ltd., Founders.—Tls. 300.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 200.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 195.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.—\$347.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$79½.
North China Insurance Co., Ltd.—Tls. 225.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd.—\$206½.
Yangtze Insee. Assocn., Ltd.—\$160.
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.—\$200.
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$29.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$319½.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.—\$90½.
Birt's Wharf Hide-curing and Wool-cleaning Company.—Tls. 55.

Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 125.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, Limited.—\$47½.
Sheridan Consolidated Mining and Milling Company, Limited.—Tls. 2½.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd.—\$14½.
Punjom Mining Co., Ltd., pref. shares—\$3.
Jelebu Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.—\$3½.
Raub Australian Gold Min. Co., Ltd.—\$54.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ltd.—Tls. 200.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ltd.—T. Tls. 110.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 207½.
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 185.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.—Tls. 43.
China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$123.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.—\$68.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (fully paid). —Tls. 80.
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd. (\$80 paid). —Tls. 60.
Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ltd.—\$71.
Kowloon Land & Building Co., Ltd.—\$20.
Humphreys Estate and Finance Co., Ltd.—\$9½.
Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 45.
Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 95.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ltd.—Tls. 72½.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.—Tls. 77½.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.—Tls. 300.
Shanghai Ice Company.—Tls. 130.
Shanghai Gas Co.—Tls. 260.
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.—Tls. 225.
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 105.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd.—Tls. 730.
Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ltd., Founders'—Nominal.
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.—Tls. 66.
J. Llewellyn & Co., Limited.—\$70.
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.—\$34½.
A. S. Watson Co., Limited.—\$13.
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.—£1.
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.—\$7.

CLOSING QUOTATIONS. EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	2/2½
Bank Bills, on demand	2/2½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	—
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2/2½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/3	
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.78
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.83
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	2.25
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	54½
Credits, 60 days' sight	55½
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	186
Bank, on demand	186½
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	186
Bank, on demand	186½
ON SHANGHAI.	
Bank, at sight	71½
Private, 30 days' sight	72½
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	1 % pm.
ON MANILA.	
On demand	16 % pm.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	1 % pm.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	8.90
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, pert ael	47

TONNAGE.

SHANGHAI, 24th April (from Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s report.)—We have no change to report in steamer rates homeward and though for New York an improvement seems to exist, judging from a slight increase in the quantity of cargo going forward, still business generally is unusually quiet for what may be considered an unusually dull season. Sail rates to New York have further declined and for a fairly large parcel as low as 20s. is procurable. Homeward rates are:—London by Conference Lines, general cargo 40s.; waste silk 45s.; tea 50s.; Northern Continental ports, general cargo 42s. 6d.; waste silk 45s.; tea 50s.; New York, general cargo 40s.; tea 40s.; New York via London, general cargo 50s.; tea 50s.; Boston, general cargo 42s. 6d.; Philadelphia, general cargo 50s. Above rates are subject to a deferred return, as per Conference circular. London by Shell Line, general cargo 40s. less 10 per cent.; Hamburg, general cargo 35s. net; New York, general cargo 50s. less 10 per cent. Havre direct, general cargo 37s. 6d.

net; Genoa, tallow 35s. general cargo 40s. net; Marseilles, tallow 35s.; general cargo 37s. 6d. net. 45s. per ton of 20 cwt. for above three ports. New York by sail, 20s. nominal; New York by Pacific Lines, little doing. Coast rates are:—Mojito to Shanghai \$1.30 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.15 per ton coal. Disengaged vessels in port.—Nil.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—Canton (str.), Menelaus (str.) Palamed (str.), Cowrie (str.), Pekin (str.), Java (str.).

For MARSEILLES.—Idzumi Maru (str.), Glen-shiel (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—Queen Elizabeth, Formosa, Peru (str.), Coptic (str.).

For VICTORIA.—Victoria (str.).

For NEW YORK.—Tam O'Shanter, Gerard C. Tobey, Lucy A. Nickels.

For AUSTRALIA.—Chingtu (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

ARRIVALS.

- April—
22, Deuterios, German str., from Saigon.
23, Foochow, British str., from Canton.
23, Doris, German str., from Canton.
23, Amarapoor, British str., from Singapore.
23, Pingsuey, British str., from Shanghai.
24, Glengarry, British str., from London.
24, Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
24, Frejr, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
24, Hangchow, British str., from Swatow.
24, Sikh, British str., from Singapore.
24, Progress, German str., from Manila.
25, Peru, Amr. str., from San Francisco.
25, Toonan, Chinese str., from Canton.
25, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
25, Olympia, British str., from Saigon.
25, Wuotan, German str., from Saigon.
25, Taisang, British str., from Shanghai.
25, Annandale, British str., from K'chintzu.
25, Kong Alf, Norw. str., from Touron.
25, Ask, Danish str., from Pakhoi.
25, Brunhilde, German str., from Bangkok.
25, Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
26, Afridi, British str., from Saigon.
26, Chingping, Chinese str., from Chefoo.
26, Hohenzollern, German str., from Y'hama.
26, Hoihow, British str., from Canton.
26, Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
26, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
26, Mascotte, British str., from Bangkok.
26, Natal, French str., from Marseilles.
26, Sachsen, German str., from Shanghai.
26, Wongkoi, British str., from Bangkok.
26, Sintram, Amr. ship, from Newcastle.
26, Strathallan, British str., from Hongay.
27, Teucer, British str., from Liverpool.
27, St. Louis, French str., from Saigon.
27, Wuhu, British str., from Swatow.
27, Macduff, British str., from Moji.
27, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
27, Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
27, Skuld, Norw. str., from Canton.
27, Manuel Slaguno, Amr. ship, from N. York.
27, Cassius, German str., from Moji.
27, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
27, Letimbro, Italian str., from Bombay.
27, Yarra, French str., from Shanghai.
28, Peiyang, German str., from Canton.
28, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.
28, Lyeemooon, German str., from Shanghai.
28, Dante, German str., from Amoy.
28, Glenfalloch, British str., from Moji.
28, Orient, German bark, from Honolulu.
28, Picciola, German str., from Saigon.

April—

DEPARTURES.

- 23, Kwongsang, British str., for Canton.
23, Holstein, German str., for Saigon.
23, Peiyang, German str., for Canton.
23, Toonan, Chinese str., for Canton.
23, Verona, British str., for Yokohama.
23, Alderley, British str., for Bangkok.
23, Namoa, British str., for Swatow.
23, Skarpsno, Norw. str., for Port Wallut.
23, Immortalite, British str., for Taiwan.
23, Peshawur, British str., for Europe.
23, Anjer Head, British str., for Swatow.
23, Devawongse, British str., for Bangkok.
23, Foochow, British str., for Tamsui.
23, Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
23, Hinsang, British str., for Shanghai.
23, Haimun, British str., for Amoy.

- 23, Satsuma Maru, Jap. str., for Shanghai.
24, Amigo, German str., for Saigon.
24, Apenrade, German str., for Saigon.
24, Benledi, British str., for Saigon.
24, Michael Jebson, Ger. str., for Nagasaki.
24, Sultan, Norw. str., for Bangkok.
24, Pigmy, British g-bt., for Yokohama.
24, Amarapoor, British str., for Yokohama.
24, Changsha, British str., for Australia.
24, Chusan, German str., for Saigon.
24, Clara, German str., for Foochow.
24, Cosmopolit, German str., for Amoy.
24, Doris, German str., for Chefoo.
24, Federation, British str., for Swatow.
24, Skuld, Norwegian str., for Canton.
25, Niobe, German str., for Hamburg.
25, Hangchow, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Taiyuan, British str., for Yokohama.
25, Taicheong, German str., for Taiwanfoo.
25, Malacca, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Argyll, British str., for Moji.
25, Belgic, British str., for San Francisco.
25, Chow Tai, British str., for Singapore.
25, Darius, British str., for Singapore.
25, Pingsuey, British str., for London.
26, Deuterios, German str., for Saigon.
26, Donar, German str., for Singapore.
26, Frejr, Danish str., for Hoihow.
26, Glengarry, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
26, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
26, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
26, Martha, German str., for Amoy.
26, Mathilde, German str., for Hoihow.
26, Natal, French str., for Shanghai.
26, Taisang, British str., for Canton.
27, Chingping, Chinese str., for Canton.
27, Hoihow, British str., for Swatow.
27, Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Canton.
27, Toonan, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
28, Archer, British str., for Shanghai.
28, Strathallan, British str., for Hongay.
28, Sachsen, German str., for Europe.
28, Chelydra, British str., for Calcutta.
28, Esmeralda, British sch., for Mariana Islds.
28, Ingraban, German str., for Tamsui.
28, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
28, Lyeemooon, German str., for Canton.
28, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
28, Skuld, Norw. str., for Chefoo.
28, Teucer, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Malacca, str., from Singapore for Hongkong—Sergt. and Mrs. Blease and 5 children, Mr. and Mrs. Fan Cheong Hock, Mrs. Sim Tee Nee. From Penang for Yokohama—Capt. and Mrs. Pritchard and 3 children.

Per Glengarry, str., from London, &c.—Misses McLavy, and 296 Chinese.

Per Haitan, str., from Coast Ports.—Messrs. Wilson, Lloyd, Trench Johnson, and 312 Chinese.

Per Progress, str., from Manila.—Mr. Enrique Hilla Casariego.

Per Kwanglee, str., from Shanghai.—Mr. Sinclair, and 130 Chinese.

Per Peru, str., from San Francisco.—Messrs. W. E. Hunt (U. S. Consul), Mrs. R. Green, Mrs. R. Uano, and Mrs. T. Samoya.

Per Taisang, steamer, from Shanghai, &c.—Major and Mrs. Botfield, Serjts. Wells, R.A., Small, R.B., and Mr. Tong.

Per Natal, str., for Hongkong from Colombo—Mr. and Mrs. Vincart and 2 children, Lieut. A. D. Boden, Mrs. d'Almado Remedios, Messrs. Chan Aki, Thresher, Tarchetti Wittoris, de Serpas, Baron, and Vice-Consul Kahn. From Singapore—Mr. and Miss Tiggis, Major and Mrs. Armstrong. For Shanghai from Marseilles—Mr. Ch. Suer, Miss Berthe Gensburger. From Suez—Consul and Mrs. Joly Benoraff and 2 children. From Colombo—Messrs. Craven, Maltby, W. W. King, G. Butler, Dr. Lowry, Dr. Cox. From Singapore—Messrs. Handlemann and Yamaguchi, and Miss Orner. From Saigon—Mr. Le Gall. For Yokohama from Colombo—Marquis de Rudini, Messrs. Patard, Beauchamp, Laferriere, Resson, Marino, Lazsatti, Tésio, Rev. and Mrs. Osborn and infant. From Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Bridges, Mrs. Murray Robertson, Miss Warrack, Messrs. John Caldecott and Vernon Fowell. From Saigon—Messrs. Saillard, Fournier, and Bourgain.

Per Hohenzollern, str., from Japan—Mrs. von Vincenti, Mr. and Mrs. von Scheven, Messrs.

Charles Lund, Hoog, Stoepel, G. Hood, Klein, Dr. Harrison, Misses N. Killerby and L. Hiron.

Per Lightning, str., from Calcutta, &c.—Major and Mrs. Moller, Miss Thomson, Capt. Agnew and McEllinney, Messrs. Bathe, Windsor, Bristau, Samman, Hildroth, and Perry.

Per Sachsen, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Miss Holninghaus. For Colombo—Mr. Jaup and Mr. E. Rehders. For Genoa—Vice-Consul Dr. Eiswaldt and family, Mrs. E. Rehders and family, Messrs. A. W. Bowmann, H. Heyn and family, and G. Detring and family. For Southampton—Mrs. J. W. Stewart, Mrs. Roope and 4 children, Mrs. Richards and 3 children, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Jack. For Antwerp—Mrs. van der Stegen and 4 children, Capt. and Miss Jensen, Messrs. N. Merlan, F. Joh, C. A. Bonivers, and H. Fournsan. For Bremen—Messrs. H. Hummelke and W. Kressin. For London—Messrs. J. B. Jarvis and D. S. Barclay.

Per Teucer, steamer, from Liverpool, &c.—Mr. Burger.

Per Yarra, str., from Shanghai for Hongkong—Mrs. Allemas, Rev. Le Lothaux, Miss P. Xavier, Messrs. J. Stern, W. J. Lister, C. Santos, and Wang Hung Ping. From Kobe for Hongkong—l'Abbé Adam.

DEPARTED.

Per Peshawur, str., from Hongkong for Singapore—Mr. E. C. Ellis. For Bombay—Mr. A. D. Vania. For London—Mr. H. Pinckney, Lieut. G. C. Quayle, R.N., Major D. I. Kysh, R.M.L.I., Lady Maud Warrender, Mr. and Mrs. A. Harvie, Mr. G. Gordon, Inspector D. Bremner, Mrs. Bremner and 2 children, Mr. R. E. Bennett. From Yokohama for London—Mr. Neville Noakes. From Shanghai for Singapore—Mr. D. Soutar, and Miss Mary Moss. For Bombay—Mr. M. M. Abdul Hussein. For Calcutta—Mr. A. S. Spitzel. For London—Mrs. Morgan and 2 children, Mr. A. W. Burkhill, Mrs. and Miss Stevens and 5 children, Messrs. B. Stewart, James Binks, Miss Miles, Mrs. F. J. Abbott and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Hoyle.

Per Verona, str., from Hongkong for Yokohama—Messrs. F. S. Gay and T. B. Blow. For Kobe—Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Clerk, Miss A. Brownlow, Messrs. R. H. W. Fraser, T. Cumming, Mr. and Mrs. F. Keats, Dr. and Mrs. R. D. Rudolf, Messrs. G. S. Harris and L. E. Bennett. For Nagasaki—Miss Oshika, Miss Ottide, Master Yamaguchi, Mr. L. de Niceville, Master Matsumoto. For Yokohama from London—Messrs. Kubota, W. B. Stewart, Pilkington, G. F. Watson, W. S. Jackson, and Arthur Corry. From Brindisi—Sir Andrew Noble, Mr. J. H. B. Noble, Miss Noble, Mr. P. Watts, and Miss Watts. From Bombay—Major-Gen. and Mrs. B. H. Blundell, Lieut. W. C. Symon, Mrs. W. Cox, and Capt. J. J. Allan. From Penang—Capt. and Mrs. Pritchard and 2 children. For Kobe from London—Mr. Nutter. From Bombay—Mr. Morita. For Nagasaki from London—Mr. H. E. Charlesworth. From Singapore—Mrs. Yuano, and Mrs. Oskaru.

Per Namoa, str., for Swatow—Mr. H. E. Fulford. For Amoy—Mr. G. E. Goodwin. For Foochow—Mr. and Miss Crosby, Mr. and Mrs. Graham, Messrs. F. W. Stapleton and Gittins.

Per Changsha, str., for Port Darwin—Messrs. Simpson, H. Harvey, and F. W. Hardcastle. For Brisbane—Mrs. and Miss M. Dick Melbourne. For Sydney—Mr. H. Smith.

Per Belgic, str., for Amoy—Mrs. Whitmore, Mr. R. L. Richardson. For Kobe—Mr. E. J. Holmes. For Yokohama—Mrs. J. E. S. Mason, Dr. S. Bolger, Mrs. Nepean, 2 Misses Gardner, Mr. Denny, Dr. Fairburn, Mr. C. Nerat, Surg.-Major H. Adey, Lieut. D. de Vitre, Mrs. N. E. Dress, Mr. and Mrs. Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Allan Hughes, Mr. R. Walcott, Mrs. Sun See and daughter, Messrs. Ng Pak Choi and J. A. Lee. For San Francisco—Mr. Walter Jones, Captain A. J. Lowell. Messrs. Tung Nam Pak and Harold Furnival. For London—Lieut. J. E. Crowther.

Per Glengarry, str., for Yokohama—Master and Miss Waddilove.

Per Haitan, str., for Swatow—Mr. and Mrs. Seymour.

Per Natal, str., for Shanghai—Lieut. G. H. Griffith, Messrs. Chesney Duncan, J. J. Buchheister, D. Souza, Turner, Stubb, and l'Abbé Lacaze, Mrs. A. de Souza. For Kobe—Messrs. Duncan Cameron, l'Abbé Bertrand, and l'Abbé Ferrand. For Yokohama—Mr. E. Abellay Casariego.